



Daily Report

East Europe

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Owen, Stoltenberg Want To Resume Bosnia Peace Talks

*AU2311131793 Paris AFP in English 1241 GMT
23 Nov 93*

[Text] Geneva, Nov 23 (AFP)—International mediators David Owen and Thorvald Stoltenberg will try to revive peace talks on Bosnia-Herzegovina here Monday but want them broadened to include other conflicts in former Yugoslavia, a spokesman said Tuesday.

The two mediators want to include the Serbian and Croatian presidents in the Geneva meeting, which has been called as a European Community (EC) initiative to try to guarantee humanitarian aid deliveries to Bosnian war zones.

The meeting was announced Monday in Luxembourg after an EC foreign ministers meeting.

But the spokesman for Owen and Stoltenberg said Tuesday it was hoped the new meeting would also revive political negotiations between Bosnian Moslems, Serbs and Croats to move towards a peace settlement, the spokesman said.

When asked if it would be a reopening of the peace process, the spokesman said: "Hopefully, yes."

Invitations have been sent to Croatian President Franjo Tudjman, Serbian leader Slobodan Milosevic and Bosnia's Moslem President Alija Izetbegovic as well as to the Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic and Bosnian Croat chief Mate Boban. Bosnian military leaders were also invited.

Requests were also sent to U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev asking them to send representatives to attend the meeting, alongside diplomatic chiefs of the European Community.

The spokesman for Owen and Stoltenberg said next Monday's meeting, which could last several days, "will be looking at the problems of former Yugoslavia as a whole," including the issue of the Serb-controlled Krajina section in Croatia.

At their Luxembourg meeting Monday, EC foreign ministers proposed gradually lifting sanctions against Serbia if Bosnian Serbs agreed to cede an extra three or four percent of land to Bosnian Moslems and withdraw troops from Krajina.

Karadzic, Boban and Bosnian Prime Minister Haris Silajdzic promised last Thursday to ensure the free passage of aid convoys in a pledge to UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Sadako Ogata.

UNHCR spokesman Sylvana Foa said Tuesday the situation on the ground was "not brilliant", with several convoys still blocked.

The U.S. Secretary of State meanwhile said in an interview on German television that sanctions against Serbia should not be lifted too soon, calling them a powerful lever for peace negotiations on Bosnia.

Christopher also said he was prepared to discuss the use of force to ensure the delivery of humanitarian aid there.

The Bosnian peace process fizzled out in September when Bosnia's Moslem-dominated parliament accepted a Geneva plan to divide the country into three ethnically based states but demanded more land concessions which the Bosnian Serbs refused to grant.

Milosevic, Karadzic, Izetbegovic To Attend Summit

*LD2411224393 Belgrade TANJUG in English 2145
GMT 24 Nov 93*

[Text] Geneva, Nov 24 (TANJUG)—President of the Yugoslav Republic of Serbia Slobodan Milosevic and the leaders of Bosnian Serbs and Moslems, Radovan Karadzic and Alija Izetbegovic, have confirmed their participation in a summit dedicated to the ending of the Bosnia-Herzegovina conflict and to the reviewing of the crisis in ex-Yugoslavia, to be held in Geneva next Monday.

This was said to TANJUG on Wednesday by John Mills, spokesman for the co-chairmen of the International Conference on Former Yugoslavia.

He added that official confirmations were received on Wednesday from President Milosevic's office and from Pale and Sarajevo.

The first to confirm participation was Bosnian Moslem leader Alija Izetbegovic, said Mills and added that the co-chairmen were now expecting answers from President Momir Bulatovic of Montenegro, President Franjo Tudjman of Croatia, and Bosnian Croat leader Mate Boban.

A decision on calling this summit was made by the European Union (E.U.) At its foreign ministerial meeting in Luxembourg on Monday.

Also to take part in the Geneva summit are the military commanders of the three warring sides in the ex-Yugoslav republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina, 12 E.U. foreign ministers, the supreme commander of the UNPROFOR (U.N. Protection Force), Russian and U.S. peace envoys, and the co-chairmen of the International Conference on Former Yugoslavia.

Socialist Press Reports Leka Zogu's 'Illegal' Visit
AU2411185693 Tirana ZERI I POPULLIT in Albanian
21 Nov 93 pp1, 2

[Unattributed report: "Leka Zogu's Mysterious and Illegal Visit to Albania"]

[Text] At approximately 1520 on Friday [19 November], Leka Zogu, who claims to inherit the Albanian royal crown, arrived at Rinas Airport with a U.S. passport in a Saudi Arabian aircraft that had set off from Jordan. He arrived a few minutes before Albanian Prime Minister Aleksander Meksi, who was returning from his visit to Bulgaria.

Two still valid laws of the Albanian state prohibit Leka Zogu from entering Albania. One special and still not revoked law of the Constitutional Assembly of 1946 prohibits ex-King Zog and the members of his family from returning to Albania, while Constitutional Law No. 7,491 approved by the Albanian Parliament in 1991 proclaimed Albania a parliamentary republic, thus forbidding the king's heir from entering Albania.

Nevertheless, Leka Zogu entered our country and spent one night in the Dajti Hotel. Under such circumstances, the question arises of whether we are dealing with a mistake by our border authorities or a secret mission of Leka Zogu to Albania.

The responsible authorities must answer this question. This is the place to recall that the self-proclaimed minister Abedin Mulosmani arrived in Albania a few months ago in the capacity of court chamberlain and wandered about Albania without any obstacle placed in his path by our state authorities. On this occasion as well, the minister concerned accompanied Leka Zogu on his visit to Albania. At 0830 yesterday, Leka Zogu left Albania. The circumstances of his departure are still unknown, but a representative of Legality said at a meeting of this party organized yesterday in Tirana that Guri Durollari, the party's chairman, was at the police station. Had the responsible authorities realized the illegality of Leka Zogu's visit a day late? Or was Leka's mission accomplished? We are waiting to learn the truth.

Parliament Changes National Day to 28 Nov
AU2411143893 Paris AFP in English 1110 GMT
24 Nov 93

[Text] Tirana, Nov 24 (AFP)—Albania's parliament has changed the country's national day by one day from November 29 to November 28, scrapping the date observed under communist rule.

The new date commemorates the declaration of independence in 1912 and the day Albania was freed from German and Italian occupation in 1944.

In a message to the Assembly, President Sali Berisha pointed out that the previous date had been selected "in

a devilish manner" by the hardline founder of Albania as a communist state, Enver Hoxha.

He chose the date of neighbouring Yugoslavia's liberation from the Nazis because at the time the communist leaders of Yugoslavia and Albania were thinking of forming a union.

Berisha's Decree To Appoint New Ministers Approved

AU2411182793 Tirana ATA in English 1113 GMT
24 Nov 93

[Text] Tirana, November 24 (ATA)—On November 23, the People's Assembly ratified the decree of the president of the republic relieving several ministers of their duties and appointing their replacements.

The chairmen of the parliamentary groups said that this act was an expression of democracy and wished the newly appointed ministers well in their jobs.

Some days ago, President Sali Berisha released Genc Ruli from the post of the minister of finance and economy and Artan Hoxha from the post of the minister of foreign trade and cooperation. Pirro Dishnica was named new minister of finance. Selim Belortaja to the new Ministry of Trade and Industry, Abdyl Khaja becomes minister of mining and energy resources.

The deputies approved the decree unanimously.

Meksi Presents Mid-Term Economic Program

AU2611073193 Tirana ATA in English 1118 GMT
25 Nov 93

[Text] [Passage indistinct] 15 per cent greater than this year; the deficit of payments will be under 20 per cent compared with 66 per cent in 1992, while the annual rate of inflation will be under 20 per cent. Speaking about a more active fiscal policy, Mr. Meksi said that income from taxes will provide 30 per cent of the budget in 1996 as against of 17 per cent at present. "Our objective is that the money and credit must become more efficient instruments," the premier said.

He also spoke about the policy of prices, wages and the work of the government for the coming three years. The price of fuel will rise to the cost level in 1966. The average real wages will increase to the level of labour productivity in 1996.

Mr. Meksi outlined the policy that the government will carry out to encourage exports and to reduce imports, to promote foreign investment, increase industrial and agricultural production, and accelerate privatization in industry and agriculture. Within 1994-1996 agriculture will meet the main needs of the country, Mr. Meksi said. Speaking of the indispensable need for accelerating privatization, he said that "delay brings about confusion and illegal profits for some individuals." He explained

that medium- sized enterprises will be privatized primarily by auction and the large enterprises by the formation of joint ventures with private investors holding 50 per cent of the shares.

In his report, Mr. Meksi evaluated multilateral and bilateral aid for the development of the Albanian economy. "The non-emergency aid has been about 300 million dollars per year, and we hope this amount can be maintained," he said. As regards public investment, he declared that it will be 72 billion leks for 1994-1996 period, the greatest part to be used on rehabilitation and development of the essential sectors of the economy.

The People's Assembly continued proceedings in parliamentary groups on the afternoon of November 24.

Meksi, Slovenia's Bizjak on Bilateral Relations

AU2511213593 Tirana ATA in English 0920 GMT
25 Nov 93

[Text] Tirana, November 25 (ATA)—Albanian Premier Meksi met with the Slovenian minister of interior, Mr. Ivo Bizjak.

Mr. Bizjak told Premier Meksi that the agreement for cooperation between the police of Albania and Slovenia will be a reliable step to strengthen relations between the two countries.

Mr. Meksi underlined in his address that Albania is interested in developing democratic relations with all countries especially its neighbours. "Bilateral relations between Albania and Slovenia have made progress and I am sure that they will further develop in the future, thus guaranteeing the Balkans too, Premier Meksi said. We would like to develop relations with Slovenia in all the areas. I am sure that exchange of visits between government officials and other contacts at all levels will contribute to the expansion of cooperation."

M. Meksi and Bizjak discussed pressing issues of the situation in the Balkans, the dangers it poses, and upheld the same opinions regarding the establishment of peace in the Balkans and observation of sovereign rights of Balkan countries.

SDS Urged To Negotiate With DPS*AU2411160093 Sofia PRAVA I SVOBODI in Bulgarian
19 Nov 93 p 1*

[Ina Ignatova commentary: "Politics Presupposes Realism"]

[Text] The initiative of the United Christian Democratic Center, formulated during the last weekend, on conducting a dialogue on restoring the old parliamentary majority, and a general dialogue of all noncommunist forces in the interest of restoring the positions lost by the Union of Democratic Forces [SDS], inspired the SDS voters and sympathizers with a certain hope. However, within virtually several hours they were blighted by the 16 November decision of the present SDS National Coordinating Council.

The National Coordinating Council led by Filip Dimitrov and the people around him rejected the possibility of any dialogue with the Movement for Rights and Freedoms [DPS] and the other potential partners. The National Coordinating Council even went as far as threatening to strip of political confidence all those who dare to contact political forces with a view to restoring the old parliamentary majority. All major parties within the SDS—the Democratic and the Radical Democratic Party—support the initiative of the United Christian Democratic Center. Those are organizations which have a real political weight in the diversified coalition of the SDS. Again, as so many times in the past, the National Coordinating Council refused to take their opinion into consideration, without presenting even a single logical argument.

There is no doubt that the political configuration will not change in favor of the SDS in the case of early parliamentary elections. On the contrary, the constantly shrinking SDS constituency lost faith and is fed up with the behavior of the National Coordinating Council, which sometimes borders on the absurd.

It is difficult to find a logical explanation of the new refusal of the National Coordinating Council to negotiate, conduct consultations, and generally, establish contacts with those political forces with which the SDS could form a coalition or at least a partnership. Politics presupposes realism and an unbiased assessment of the pluses and minuses in establishing contacts with any eventual interlocutor with a view to seeking allies.

Possibilities of Restoring SDS Unity Examined*AU2411182193 Sofia OTECHESTVEN VESTNIK in
Bulgarian 19 Nov 93 p 1*

[Rumen Traychev article: "The Strategy Involves Some Risks"]

[Text] The no-confidence vote against Prof. Berov's cabinet, along with the debates accompanying it, appeared to be the main event of the week. While focusing all its attention on this issue our public seemed

somehow to neglect another event, which was no less important, in my view. I am talking about the decision of the Union of Democratic Forces [SDS] Coordinating Council adopted on Tuesday [16 November] on rejecting any negotiations whatsoever involving a restoration of the old parliamentary majority within the framework of the current parliament.

Two parallel trends prevailing within the SDS coalition evidently seem to be part of the SDS strategy related to the issue of early elections and express the profound conviction that the present government and parliament are not in a position to implement the necessary reform aimed at rescuing the country from the current crisis. The trend concerning the government is more than understandable and everything shows that the majority of our public shares the same view about its efficiency. As an executive organ expressing the legislator's will the cabinet's actions, or rather its lack of action over the last 10 months demonstrated, among other things, also the extent of the degeneration affecting the administrative process whenever the legislative institution is represented by a majority supporting the government, which does not have the necessary will for reforms. This is so, because nothing, but absolutely nothing, could have prevented the present parliamentary majority from providing the necessary legislative basis for specific and effective actions on part of the executive power. It is a total delusion to expect from another government, eventually elected by the same parliamentary majority, to be more successful.

The decision of the National Coordinating Council adopted on 16 November 1993 precisely reflects this very element: By renouncing participation in some sort of internal-parliamentary experiments and restructuring operations, the SDS once and for all demonstrates the lack of the will for reform characterizing the present parliament majority which is doomed to stagnation. In the second place, it shows that there is no alternative for the SDS as the motor of necessary radical democratic and economic changes.

The strategy of the SDS coalition on the government and parliament is logical and consistent. However, it also involves certain risks. In the first place, we are facing the possibility that the present parliamentary majority may be consolidated to an extent to which the idea of early elections might become unfeasible. This is a realistic assumption, considering that the majority of parliament members are mainly concerned about "pushing through" their four years' mandate, rather than finding an effective solution to the crisis. For the time being, the SDS strategy does not indicate any possible means of preventing such a development, it does not provide a solution for such problems. Solutions could be found within the framework of preliminary soundings and talks with individual parliamentarians, with non-communist extra-parliamentary forces, and with the trade unions, just to mention some acceptable partners for the SDS.

Without similar contacts, the idea of establishing a powerful non-communist bloc could hardly be implemented.

Sepetliev Protests 'Alliance' With BSP; Leaves DPS

AU2411183293 Sofia Khorizont Radio Network in Bulgarian 1700 GMT 24 Nov 93

[Text] In a letter to the Central Council of the Movement for Rights and Freedoms [DPS] National Assembly member Dimitur Sepetliev announced that he is leaving the DPS. He pointed out that his move was prompted by the policy of alliance with the Bulgarian Socialist Party [BSP] upon which the DPS embarked upon in recent months, and the assistance the DPS renders to the BSP in its attempt to fully seize power.

Trade Union Leaders Criticize Cabinet

AU2511152093 Sofia BTA in English 1948 GMT 24 Nov 93

["Largest Labour Amalgamations Sharply Criticize Cabinet"—BTA headline]

[Text] Sofia, November 24 (BTA)—The leader of the Confederate Council of the Confederation of Independent Trade Unions (KNSB) Prof. Krustyu Petkov today said he yesterday sent a letter to the Confederate Council of the Podkrepa Labour Confederation, proposing bilateral consultations and joint industrial action and protests in response to the collapse of the agreements to pay cost-of-living bonuses to government employees, signed by those two labour amalgamations.

Addressing the press today, Mr. Petkov described the government's policies as "political infantilism." He cited its "failure to collect revenues and the belated start of the structural reform." Prof. Petkov sees the only way out of the crisis in scheduling early elections for next April or May and a speedy passage of the major laws needed to effect the reform.

According to the labour amalgamation, eight municipalities are hard-pressed and fifteen are actually bankrupt. "This is a state of emergency calling for emergency measures," said Mr. Petkov. "In these circumstances, labour pressure on the government cannot be avoided," he said.

Social tension is mounting in the areas of Kazanluk, Pazardzhik and others, said local KNSB coordinators. Doctors and teachers have not been paid for a couple of months. A number of hospitals and schools have been closed. Staggered hunger strikes are underway. Some substructures can go out of trade union control and resort to civil disobedience, said Nikolay Nedev, KNSB regional coordinator in Plovdiv, southern Bulgaria.

According to the KNSB leaders, a general strike would bring the government down. Yet the KNSB calls on parliamentary factions to join efforts and pass next year's national budget after careful consideration.

The Lyuben Berov cabinet will fall down by a month [as received], said the Confederate Council of the Podkrepa Labour Confederation sitting in Burgas on the Black Sea for a second day. "We shall not allow negative trends in public life, politics and the economy to reflect on Podkrepa members. The nation's problems grow in number yet draw less and less attention," Podkrepa President Konstantin Trenchev told the press, reported BTA's correspondent in Burgas.

The government, composed "exceptionally incompetently" failed in all spheres, said Podkrepa. Its social policy was bound to collapse and tax policy is based on the wrong ideas. The structural reform has made no progress. The foolishness, inadequacy and incompetence of cabinet ministers has scared off large Western investors, said Mr. Trenchev. Podkrepa adopted a memo, outlining the framework for future action. It will seek interaction with all political forces except for the Bulgarian Socialist Party.

Landless Farmers To Receive State Allocations

AU2411150093 Sofia BTA in English 2110 GMT 23 Nov 93

[Text] Sofia, November 23 (BTA)—The amount of the state land stock now stands at some 220,000 hectares, the deputy head of the Land and Land Use Department of the Agriculture Ministry Ivan Kurtev announced today. He believes that the final figure, which will be determined before the end of the year, will be at most 5,000 hectares greater than the present one.

Some 50,000 hectares of state-owned land are used by institutes and experimental stations, and another 50,000 hectares are uncultivable land which is not subject to lease. The remaining 127,000 hectares can be used for farming.

This amount is quite sufficient to meet the requests of landless farmers and small owners for the lease of state-owned land, agriculture experts say. After the liquidation of the socialist-type cooperative farms and the restitution of land to its former owners, part of the farmers proved landless or owners of too little plots. These are mainly ethnic turks living in Northeastern and Southeastern Bulgaria who were the country's poorest population prior to cooperativization. The Movement for Rights and Freedoms, which protects the interests of ethnic Turks, repeatedly voiced fears that this category of farmers would remain without livelihood.

Some 36,000 decares in 14 areas countrywide have been leased to landless people and small owners on preferential terms, according to Mr. Kurtev. In Northeastern Bulgaria they have received some 32,000 hectares. In the remaining parts of the country people do not show particular interest in state-owned land for the time being and no lease contracts have been concluded there, according to the Agriculture Ministry.

Macedonian Foreign Minister Arrives, No Statement*AU2511143593 Sofia BTA in English 0807 GMT 25 Nov 93*

[Text] Sofia, November 25 (BTA)—Macedonian Foreign Minister Stevo Crvenkovski arrived on an official one-day visit here this morning. He declined to make statements to the press at the airport.

Bulgaria's Foreign Minister Stanislav Daskalov and Mr. Crvenkovski have begun talks.

Later today the guest will be received by President Zhelyu Zhelev and Prime Minister Lyuben Berov. A Macedonian consulate general in Sofia will be inaugurated.

Meets Daskalov*AU2511210593 Sofia BTA in English 1425 GMT 25 Nov 93*

[Iva Toncheva report]

[Text] Sofia, November 25 (BTA)—Macedonia's Foreign Minister Stevo Crvenkovski and his Bulgarian counterpart Stanislav Daskalov today discussed the future of bilateral relations, the situation in the Balkans, the conflict in Bosnia-Herzegovina and international issues. Mr. Crvenkovski arrived on a one-day official visit here this morning. Other topics for discussion were the two countries' aspirations to become integrated into the European structures and their relations with the international financial institutions. Mr. Daskalov informed the guest of Bulgaria's cooperation with NATO.

"The sides are ready to carry on their active cooperation and to expand the legal framework of their relations. They are in favour of uninterrupted dialogue," Mr. Daskalov told the press. He assessed as useful the nearly 90-minute talks. Mr. Crvenkovski described as positive the development of Bulgarian-Macedonian relations. "It would be very good to meet frequently because both countries have a European orientation and develop relations in the Balkans along the lines and principles adopted in Europe," said the Macedonian foreign minister. He said there were many projects concerning infrastructure and communications from which the two countries and the region as a whole could benefit.

Asked whether Bulgaria could mediate the dispute between Macedonia and Greece, Mr. Crvenkovski said Macedonian-Greek relations were their concern. "There is a mechanism in the United Nations," Mr. Crvenkovski said, expressing hope for the continuance of talks between the two countries. "The UN mechanism is where problems of the improvement of relations between Macedonia and Greece should be resolved," the guest said. Answering another question, he denied statements about secret negotiations between Macedonia and Greece. "We are not holding secret talks with any country now. We have stated clearly our principles, which are consistent with the European trends," Mr. Crvenkovski said. He stressed that it is in the interests of both Macedonia

and Greece to work for establishing better relations, which, as he put it, is not a secret to anyone.

"Balkan relations only stand to gain from any Balkan country's cooperation with the United States or the European Community," Mr. Crvenkovski said, asked whether the recently signed agreement between the United States and Albania would encourage Albanian separatists in Macedonia. "We do not expect any problems. There is no problem if any other neighbour cooperates with the United States or the EC," Mr. Crvenkovski also said.

Asked about the problems in Bulgarian-Macedonian relations, Mr. Crvenkovski said countries that are trying to build a new system have all kinds of problems between them. "The point is that there is good will and mechanisms are being worked out to solve all problems," Mr. Crvenkovski said.

The foreign ministers discussed the idea of more frequent exchanges of economic delegations.

Several Bulgarian-Macedonian agreements are being prepared, of which Mr. Daskalov specially mentioned an agreement on the avoidance of double taxation. Later today the two Foreign Ministers are expected to sign an agreement on consular relations.

Meets Berov, Zhelev*AU2511210093 Sofia BTA in English 2015 GMT 25 Nov 93*

[Iva Toncheva report]

[Excerpt] Sofia, November 25 (BTA)—[Passage omitted]

Later today Macedonia's Foreign Minister Stevo Crvenkovski was received by Prime Minister Lyuben Berov. According to the government's spokesman, Prime Minister Berov raised some problems concerning both countries' interests: Non-disturbance of the balance existing despite the developments in Bosnia-Herzegovina and the conflicts following the disintegration of Yugoslavia, the sides' approach to the embargo, the relaxing of which would be to the interest of both countries, encouraging Bulgarian-Macedonian trade and improvement of their communications. Bulgaria and Macedonia have concluded an agreement on the construction of a modern railway line combined with a motor way reaching Albania's Adriatic coast. The route of the railway is to be specified at the level of experts. The international financial institutions are expected to grant aid for the construction of the project.

The railway project and the possibility of easing contacts between Bulgarian and Macedonian businessmen were considered at a meeting of President Zhelyu Zhelev and Foreign Minister Stevo Crvenkovski. By Dr. Zhelev's wish, the sides did not use the services of a translator. During the photo-op, Mr. Crvenkovski extended Macedonian President Kiro Gligorov's invitation to President Zhelev to visit Macedonia the soonest possible. Later on

President Zhelev's foreign political adviser informed the press that the invitation was accepted in principle. Dr. Zhelev invited Macedonia's president to visit Bulgaria.

During his talks with Dr. Zhelev, the Macedonian foreign minister highly appreciated the Bulgarian support for strengthening Macedonia's independence. The Bulgarian president assured Mr. Crvenkovski that Bulgaria is interested in Macedonia's stability as part of the stability in the Balkans and that it insists on Macedonia's other neighbors recognizing its right to sovereignty and independence without reservations. According to President Zhelev's foreign political adviser, Dr. Zhelev and Mr. Crvenkovski established there is a large measure of similarity between interethnic relations in the two countries and the ways of regulating them in compliance with the European standards. It is the sides' shared opinion that Macedonia's integration with the European structures will strengthen its internal stability.

News Conference Prior to Departure

AU2611073393 Sofia Khorizont Radio Network in Bulgarian 2000 GMT 25 Nov 93

[Text] At a news conference prior to his departure from Bulgaria Macedonian Foreign Minister Stevo Crvenkovski highly assessed the similar orientation of Bulgaria and Macedonia toward a peaceful policy in Europe and the Balkans, common measures aimed at easing the Yugoembargo, and developing an open market economy. This is how he described the possibilities of developing economic cooperation:

[Begin Crvenkovski recording in Macedonian with simultaneous Bulgarian translation] In this context we stressed our special interest in developing the infrastructure, a problem which at present is the major obstacle to developing economic cooperation. We also discussed the trans-Balkan railroad and developing railroad connections. We already began to partly implement cooperation in telecommunications and telephone lines. However, we think that broader cooperation could be developed if we obtain the support of the international financial institutions. [end recording]

Berov Announces Foreign Policy 'Successes'

AU2611111293 Sofia Khorizont Radio Network in Bulgarian 1000 GMT 25 Nov 93

[Kalina Stancheva report from Council of Ministers headquarters in Sofia—live]

[Text] Good morning. Prime Minister Lyuben Berov briefly stopped at the Government Press Center today in order to make a short statement on the occasion of the good news coming from Frankfurt, New York, and Brussels, which coincided on their way to Sofia.

The progress regarding settling the foreign debt with the London Club, the emerging possibility of a transit for Bulgarian goods through Serbia being granted, and the long-awaited signing of the provisional agreement on

trade with the European Union, which seems to be coming closer to a positive conclusion these days—such are the good news, according to our diplomatic services in the aforementioned cities from which the cabinet is expecting to hear more details at any minute, as the prime minister announced.

We worked on these three projects for almost a whole year, despite great obstacles, and the time of reward for our efforts has finally come, Mr. Berov declared. He further dwelled on some domestic policy issues, stating as follows: At a moment when the whole world is trying to help us, at least to a certain extent, we are creating difficulties for ourselves. The appeals of the two trade union leaders for mass strikes are primarily motivated by personal ambitions, the prime minister thinks. One of the two trade union leaders is afraid that the number of his members is dwindling, while the other is trying to consolidate his reputation by his devious behavior. Prime Minister Berov is convinced that both trade union leaders have committed a mistake by their hasty decision on a large scale, almost a general strike. This shall not be, the prime minister declared in closing his statement.

The Council of Ministers session this morning basically approved a bill on the military doctrine of the Republic of Bulgaria. The draft will be finally adopted at a joint meeting of the cabinet and the army's General Staff.

The weekly briefing on the government session is expected to take place this afternoon with the participation of four cabinet ministers, as it was announced.

London Club Reduces Foreign Debt 50 Percent

AU2611073993 Sofia BTA in English 1623 GMT 25 Nov 93

[Text] Sofia, November 25 (BTA)—An agreement on about 50 percent reduction of Bulgaria's debt service payments to the London Club was reached at the negotiations with the creditor banks in Frankfurt this week. Finance Minister Stoyan Aleksandrov, who led the Bulgarian delegation, said on coming back. He described the deal as a precedent in creditors-debtors relations. The amount subject to reduction represents a principal of \$7,000 million [\$7 billion] and interest adding up to \$1,700-1,800 million. The deal will be finalized following the adoption of a decision by the Bulgarian Parliament on the initial payment of \$865 million to the creditor banks.

Minister Aleksandrov said that the cabinet would consider the parameters of the debt and debt service reduction agreement at an extraordinary meeting on Saturday [27 November] formulating its proposals, so that they be discussed by the respective parliamentary committees and submitted for adoption by parliament on Wednesday or Thursday next week. The next step would be to finalize the technical aspects of the deal so that the debt reduction agreement be signed by June 30, 1994 or, as Minister Aleksandrov expects, even earlier.

The present agreement contains provisions for Bulgaria's buying its debt back, though it is not obliged to do so, the Bulgarian side can do it at will quoting its own price, the finance minister said. In his view, this is a double-edged sword because Bulgaria should offer a price enabling it to buy back as much of its foreign debt as possible. The larger the portion initially purchased, the greater reduction could be obtained. Now the policy of the Bulgarian National Bank, of parliament and the government should be subordinated to this most important goal: Finalizing the debt reduction agreement, Mr. Chavdar Kunchev, director of the Bulgarian Foreign Trade Bank and a member of the Bulgarian delegation to the negotiations in Frankfurt, said.

Finance Minister Aleksandrov expects that the negotiation of the debt reduction accord will expedite the arrangements with the International Monetary Fund, he believes that this will have a favourable effect on Bulgaria's relations with the international financial institutions in general.

UN Adopts Proposal To Control Transit Via FRY

AU2611073893 Sofia BTA in English 1719 GMT 25 Nov 93

[Text] Sofia, November 25 (BTA)—The decision of the United Nations Sanctions Committee to approve Bulgaria's proposals for control and monitoring overland transit via Yugoslavia is another step forward, but it does not resolve this country's problems ensuing from the strict observance of sanctions against Serbia and Montenegro, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Todor Churov said at the government's Press Office today.

The Bulgarian proposals for control over cargo transit via Yugoslavia envisage goods inspection, cargo sealing and truck weighing, as well as the exchange of information on the movement of cargoes by electronic mail. Bulgaria has filed 3,297 applications for the export of Bulgarian non-embargoed goods to Serbia and Montenegro since the enforcement of sanctions, 1,728 of them were granted. The applications for export total about \$3,700 million, but the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has no information as to the exports actually made. No applications for transit carriage have been filed, Mr. Churov said.

**Dlouhy News Conference on Arms Trade,
Ingolstadt**

AU2411132093 Prague DENNI TELEGRAF in Czech
23 Nov 93 pp 1, 6

[Robert Zelenka report: "A No to Trade in Arms of Mass Destruction"]

[Text] The wording of the law on trade in military materiel, which has been approved by the government, certainly does not open the way to full liberalization of this trade. Vladimir Dlouhy, minister of industry and trade, said yesterday that the government had consulted experts and embassies of advanced countries about the law.

The law on foreign trade in military materiel provides a legal framework for the definition of military materiel, its types, and categories; and it describes the conditions any prospective arms dealer must meet. The law also describes the approval process for granting licenses. Weapons of mass destruction must not be traded.

Permanent residents in the Czech Republic who are over 18 and have a clean record may apply for a trading license. Anyone who has been sentenced for negligence associated with the arms business or for a willful crime does not satisfy the condition of having a clean record. The same applies to anyone who was a member of the National Security Corps responding to State Security between 25 February 1945 and 17 November 1989, or who is registered in State Security files as a resident, agent, tenant of a safe-house apartment [držitel konspiračního bytu], informer, or ideological collaborator. Foreign capital participation can amount to up to 49 percent in an arms company. The Ministry of Industry and Trade issues licenses. The decision to issue a license has to be made within 60 days after the Foreign Ministry, the Defense Ministry, and the Interior Ministry have stated their positions on the matter. Each and every deal in military materiel will require a special permit. This permit must contain the category of the military materiel, its precise specification, and an end user certificate. The Foreign Ministry, Defense Ministry, and Interior Ministry each state their positions on the license.

In the event the law is violated, the company or individual may be fined up to 5 million korunas, and if the interests of the Czech Republic are damaged, the fine could amount to 30 million korunas.

Exporters in the democratic countries have agreed on regions to which military materiel should not be exported. They are countries in which there is an open military conflict, countries whose governments support terrorism, and countries that do not respect the rules of international security.

Minister Dlouhy also spoke about the progress of the construction of the Ingolstadt oil pipelines. As he said,

both tank stations [tankovací stanice] are under construction and connection of the pipelines is in preparation. The selection of the main suppliers to the Czech part of the pipeline has also been prepared. [sentence as published] On Thursday [25 November], the minister will leave for Munich where he will discuss the work schedule. The National Property Fund and the Czechoslovak Commercial Bank are participating in the financing of the pipelines. The Fund should release 10 billion korunas and the Czechoslovak Commercial Bank has invited a tender for which many German banks have applied.

According to Dlouhy, the Ministry of Industry and Trade will support the intention of the Mercedes automobile plant to build a new production line for new types of cars in the Czech Republic. The support of the Ministry of Industry and Trade should apply to infrastructure, transportation, and telecommunications. Mercedes has not solicited any tax reliefs. Dlouhy refused to say what sum the government is prepared to invest in the project. The most convenient location to build the plant from scratch appears to be Plzen. Certain places in Olomouc and Brno are, however, also being considered, and Liberec offered such a location, too.

The minister rejected the views of some West European experts who have said that the East European countries should stop integrating in the European Community and build a free trade zone in Central and Eastern Europe. This zone would be integrated in the European Community later on, after a certain time. "Our intention is to become part of the integration process, and in addition, to independently discuss the establishment of free trade zones," V. Dlouhy said. In this connection, he said that he would initiate talks on the establishment of a free trade zone with Turkey.

Editorial on Reasons for Wanting To Join NATO

AU2611082793 Prague LIDOVE NOVINY in Czech
24 Nov 93 p 1

[Jiri Hanak editorial: "That's Why!"]

[Text] An inexperienced child must touch the hot stove. The 65 million inhabitants of Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, and Hungary have been, for almost half a century, forced to cuddle up to the hot stove of Russian imperialism. Nevertheless, Russian Prime Minister Chernomyrdin marvels, even today, why these countries so insist on joining NATO.

The peoples of Central Europe know that Russia cannot guarantee anything to anybody for generations to come. The question is whether it can even guarantee its own democratic development. The smoke besmirched building of the Russian Parliament following its tank-led siege is a rather intangible pledge. Today, Russia is down, but not out. The nations of Central Europe, with their sensitive antennae toward the East, know well that

it is just a matter of time before the traditional Russian "stremlenie na zapad" [westward expansion] will start anew.

If the Czech Republic is given 10 years of normal development, it can arrive—with respect to the matter-of-fact compliance with democracy and independence both political and economic—at the point it reached in 1938. We cannot afford to believe in miracles, and the rooting of democracy in Russia within the next 10 years would be a miracle comparable with the creation of the world. Hence, we are not going to stop knocking on the NATO door, simply because we cannot stop. What we were offered so far is just an unbinding mollification.

One cannot, however, simply disregard the reasons NATO has for offering the pacifier. The newly adopted Russian military doctrine has sent a legible message: Russia is not a common postcommunist country. It has been and remains to be a superpower that maintains its the nuclear ability to destroy the world several times over. One cannot but listen to a partner that is so equipped if he expresses this or that opinion. Moreover, Moscow does not make any secrets about it: The entry of the Central European countries into NATO would be, for Moscow, an act of adversity!

If we are demanding the entry today, we do it on a supplicatory basis. It is not difficult to turn down a supplicant, particularly a troublesome one. If we were of some benefit to NATO, however, be it for moving the border of peace and stability further eastward or for the ability and accomplishments of our army, the supplicant would change into a welcome guest. In a SPIEGEL interview, Prime Minister Chernomyrdin takes this into account. He is pointing out the tremendous sums of money all this would cost the Czechs (Poles, Hungarians, or Slovaks). There are instances, however, when economizing leads to great losses, and this is one of these instances.

Poll Shows Most Czechs Favor Admission to EC, NATO

AU2411191693 Prague CTK in English 1345 GMT 24 Nov 93

[Text] Prague, Nov 24 (CTK)—Eighty-five percent of Czechs support the country's effort to join the European Community (EC), a poll conducted among 1113 people by Center of Empirical Research (STEM) in early November revealed.

Sixty percent of Czechs would approve NATO membership, the poll showed.

Only the followers of the far left (3 percent of the total population) have a negative attitude (55 percent against) towards the EC.

Commentary on Zieleniec's Compensation Proposal

AU2611082693 Prague MLADA FRONTA DNES in Czech 24 Nov 93 p 6

[Emilie Harantova commentary: "Zieleniec's Efforts May Have Had an Effect in Bonn"]

[Text] Prevalently humanitarian considerations have led Minister Zieleniec to propose providing advanced payments to the Czech victims of the Nazi regime. Most victims are senior citizens and a postponement by even a year could be too long. Minister Zieleniec also wanted to draw Bonn's attention to the fact that postponing this "humanitarian gesture" toward our victims of the Nazi regime—a gesture that was promised by Kohl this spring—would not help improve our mutual relations, nor would it help conduct the dialogue, the importance of which has so often been stressed by Bonn.

Reasons for Bonn's having delayed this issue are quite clear: The election campaign has begun in Germany, and the situation of Kohl's government is not enviable. Both the Christian Democratic Union [CDU] and the Christian Social Union [CSU] want to stop the outflow of their voters. The Bavarian CSU's standpoint is very essential for our problem of compensating the victims. Since Stoiber's appointment as head of the Bavarian Government, this party has been pushing for its own policy more than Kohl would like them to.

Stoiber is defending the interests of the Sudeten Germans much more vehemently than his predecessor Streibl did. The Sudeten Germans are saying that it would be "egregious" to compensate the Czech victims of the Nazi regime. Apart from the Sudeten Germans, Stoiber tries to sway the right-of-the-center electors to his side. Mostly because of this, Stoiber has recently criticized Bonn's concept for integration, to which criticism Chancellor Kohl had to react. Stoiber announced, among other things, that the CDU's post war policy will be abandoned. According to him, all the previous governments had tried to replace the German identity burdened by the past European identity. However, Germany's reunification has created a new starting situation. Germany should adjust its policy to this new situation.

The opinion that Germany has entered a new era in which apologies for the Nazi crimes are not in vogue can be heard in Germany more and more often. Heitmann, CDU candidate for federal president, has also said it. Three years after the reunification, there really has been a shift in how people understand national identity. More and more Germans are becoming aware of the fact that their country is the most powerful nation in Western Europe.

Kohl's government does not consider it to be the best idea to discuss compensation to Czechs in this political climate. They are not saying that they would not want

provide compensation at all, however they are not going to make the promised gesture.

In our country, too, there was a shift in understanding our own identity and situation within the past four years. Our illusion of harmonious cooperation with the West has been gradually replaced by the realistic view of our position in Europe. Our position, however, is not absolutely unimportant, since we are on the borders between the West and the East, and therefore we are a very important partner for Germany.

Of course, equality of both partners is the main precondition for good cooperation. Minister Zieleniec's proposal can serve as an example of the efficiency of such policy. Bonn may have not reacted officially to this initiative, however, the signal that Zieleniec has issued has not remained unnoticed. At a Social Democratic Party of Germany [SPD] congress—at which the election program of the party was drafted—compensation was paid exceptional attention. The SPD's spokesman, Voigt, spoke about the need to compensate the Czech victims of the Nazi regime and he stressed that the SPD would be willing to complete the purely Czech solution with a German-Czech solution later on.

The SPD is not a government party, but it aspires to become one. For us, it is essential that this party's foreign policy concept will become an important feature of their election campaign, which Kohl's government will have to take into account. This also applies to compensation for Sudeten Germans.

Czech Battalion in Yugoslavia To be Reinforced

LD2411203193 Prague Radiozurnal Radio Network in Czech 1900 GMT 24 Nov 93

[Text] The Czech battalion, which forms a part of the UN protection forces on the territory of former Yugoslavia, is to be reinforced by 500 men. This has emerged from the government's proposal discussed today by the Parliamentary Committee for Petitions, Human Rights, and Nationalities. Petra Buzkova, its member, said that the committee did not adopt any decision on the government's proposal because of totally opposing views of individual deputies. The government was criticized for the fact that the first part of the military unit had been sent to southern Croatia without parliamentary approval.

Klaus Meets With Head of Ukrainian Parliament

AU2411175493 Prague CTK in English 2017 GMT 23 Nov 93

[Text] Prague, Nov 23 (CTK)—General questions concerning the transformation of the economy and society and the experiences of the Czech Republic in this process were the topic of discussions between Czech Prime Minister Vaclav Klaus and Ukrainian Parliament Chairman Ivan Plyushch today.

After the meeting, Klaus told journalists that he had spoken with Plyushch about Czech experience which Ukraine could actually need and use. He said that a number of basic steps that were necessary for the success of the transformation and that the Czech Republic had already tried had not yet been carried out in Ukraine.

Ukraine is still resolving matters which we took care of in 1990, Klaus said.

At the meeting, Plyushch invited Klaus to visit Ukraine.

Israeli Defense Chief Views Aims of Visit

LD2411162993 Prague Radiozurnal Radio Network in Czech 1400 GMT 24 Nov 93

[Text] Israel would welcome it if the Czech Republic and the other European states participated in the Middle East peace process by exerting efficient pressure on countries such as Iran and Iraq and by directing them away from their aggressive and militant policies.

This was stated in Prague today by Acting Israeli Defense Minister Mordekhay Gur. He added that deliveries of weapons and military systems to Iran from unnamed European countries have turned the above country into a threat to world peace. At the same time, the Israeli politician said that the aim of his visit to the Czech Republic and Hungary, just as that of the coming visit of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin to Western Europe, is to bring this strategic Israeli interest to the attention of European politicians and to establish new economic relations with Europe.

NATO, FRG Communications Reportedly Monitored

AU2411143293 Prague MLADA FRONTA DNES in Czech 23 Nov 93 p 2

["hv"-signed report: "German Border Police Allegedly Operates Also on the Czech Side of the Common Border"]

[Text] Usti nad Labem—Members of the German Federal Border Police operate in Czech border areas, according to information published by [north Bohemian regional daily] SEVEROCESKY DENIK, citing sources from the military unit at Tisa, Usti nad Labem district, which has allegedly succeeded at least twice in monitoring German Police members' radio transmissions beamed from Czech territory. MLADA FRONTA DNES has not managed to verify this information from another independent source.

SEVEROCESKY DENIK reported that three groups of soldiers at Tisa are working on monitoring German radio operations. Apart from monitoring transmissions by the Russian Army on the territory of the FRG and radio communications within the framework of NATO, they also focus on monitoring the German Border Police.

The presence of members of the Federal Border Police on our territory has been ruled out by Captain Milan Babicik, commander of the Border Police in northern Bohemia. He said that the two states pledged in a treaty to respect the inviolability of their sovereign territories and that he did not have the slightest indications that the terms of the treaty were not being observed. According to Babicik, the principle of territorial inviolability is being observed by the Czech and German Border Police even during common operations.

Vlastimil Cadilek, commander of the concentration of military units in the Tisa camp [velitel taboroveho soustredeni vojenskyh jednotek v Tise], refused to comment on the SEVEROCESKY DENIK report.

DSP Decides To Merge With SDL

AU2411213293 Prague TELEGRAF in Czech 22 Nov 93 p 3

[CTK report: "DSP To Become Part of SDL"]

[Text] Prague—Delegates to the second congress of the Democratic Party of Labor [DSP] approved on Saturday [20 November] their party's merger with the Party of the Democratic Left [SDL]. This was stated by DSP press spokesman M. Kroupa at a news conference held immediately after the congress. A four-member DSP commission will meet with the SDL leadership at a working meeting on Friday [26 November], at which an agreement on merger will be drawn up.

CSSD Deputy Calls For No Confidence Vote

AU2411191893 Prague CTK in English 1213 GMT 24 Nov 93

[Text] Prague, Nov 24 (CTK)—Czech Social Democratic Party (CSSD) Deputy Vaclav Grulich wants the government to render an account on how much of its political program it has fulfilled and, if the account is unsatisfactory, wants the party to initiate a vote of no confidence in the government, Grulich said today.

Grulich said he would suggest that fellow CSSD deputies discuss the proposal.

The government has not yet provided a parliamentary account since it was elected and none of the ministries have drawn up a policy program, he said.

Grulich believes the government parties give priority to the coalition agreement rather than to the quality of ministerial work. Prime Minister and ODS Chairman Vaclav Klaus is so tied to the coalition parties that he cannot carry out his prime ministerial functions and cannot replace the bad ministers with more effective ones, he said.

He claimed that the inadequacies of the Ministry of Agriculture are constantly being concealed and that Klaus himself had virtually taken over the function of education minister.

It was necessary to take steps against the government as a whole because the Constitution did not allow no confidence votes to be initiated against individual ministers, he said.

HZDS Deputies' Club Leadership Resigns

AU2411154893 Prague CTK in English 1135 GMT 24 Nov 93

[Text] Bratislava, Nov 24 (CTK)—Leadership of the parliamentary group of deputies from the Movement for a Democratic Slovakia (HZDS) has resigned, Slovak Radio announced today.

Resignation Confirmed

LD2411162593 Bratislava Rozhlasova Stanica Slovensko Network in Slovak 1100 GMT 24 Nov 93

[Excerpts] Esteemed listeners, at the beginning of this Radiojurnal we brought to you unconfirmed news that the leadership of the Movement for a Democratic Slovakia [HZDS] parliamentary deputies club leadership resigned today. Of course, we tried to get some more information during our broadcast. This is what we obtained:

The leadership of the HZDS deputies club resigned. Ivana Salczerova, the movement's spokeswoman, confirmed this to CTK today. However, she did not give any details of reasons for this step.

Augustin Marian Huska, deputy chairman of the National Council [parliament] and HZDS official, told a CTK reporter that according to the information available to him, the debate on the internal situation in the movement should take place at the end of this week. Answering the question on whether he did exclude the possibility of the HZDS deputies club leadership having resigned he said he knew nothing about the matter.

Of course, we went on in our quest for information. Ivan Samel approached HZDS deputy Vladimir Bajan to inquire about the matter.

[Begin recording] [Samel] We have learned that the whole leadership of the HZDS deputies club resigned. Is this information true?

[Bajan] Well, it is almost like a resignation. We dealt with the situation in the club at a meeting held yesterday [23 November]. Having assessed the situation we have unanimously agreed that we are offering our posts to the HZDS deputies' club for its disposal. The club should take a stance on this matter at its meeting on Friday [27 November].

[Samel] What were the reasons for this step?

[Bajan] For the time being I will give you no more details about the reasons behind it. We shall discuss the issue on Friday and, perhaps, we could speak about this in more detail after that. [passage omitted]

[Samel] Could this be considered the first indication of a public demonstration of the conflict within the HZDS club?

[Bajan] I would not describe it as such. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Details Expected 26 Nov

AU2411220993 Prague CTK in English 2029 GMT 24 Nov 93

[Text] Bratislava, Nov 24 (CTK)—One of the resigning leaders of the Movement for a Democratic Slovakia (HZDS) Deputies' Group Rudolf Goc told CTK today that he was resigning for personal reasons.

Perhaps I'm not capable of doing the job and am not suited to it, he added.

Today's resignation of the leadership of the HZDS Deputies' Club has further stirred the stormy political scene in Slovakia. HZDS press spokesman Ivana Salczerova told CTK that the chairman, Ivan Luluha, and four deputy chairmen, Vladimir Bajan, Rudolf Goc, Imrich Mori and Ludmila Muskova had all handed in their resignations.

Goc said the details would be made known on Friday, November 26 at the regular meeting between HZDS deputies and members of the government. I expect that a communique will be issued explaining the method of and reasons for the deputy chairmen's resignation, Goc said.

For some time there has been speculation among HZDS deputies concerning their relation to the government of Prime Minister Vladimir Meciar, who is also HZDS chairman. HZDS politicians are not united in their evaluation of the sense of the party's recently- formed coalition with the Slovak National Party (SNS) and the way in which it was made. Some of them are also doubtful about Meciar's recent attitude towards President Michal Kovac and about some of the governments's methods.

Meciar himself said on the radio last Friday that at least one deputy in his party must have voted for the dismissal of Health Minister Viliam Sobona. This step by parliament was an omen of the difficulties which a coalition having in theory a majority of mandates should not be experiencing.

HZDS has had one revolt this year already, when in spring a group of seven politicians broke away, led by former Foreign Minister Milan Knazko, losing the HZDS its parliamentary majority and forcing it to consider a coalition.

Peter Weiss, chairman of the Party of the Democratic Left, the strongest non-government party, pointed out on Tuesday that some HZDS politicians no longer wished to bear responsibility for the government's recent behavior. Either HZDS transforms itself, or it will fall apart, he forecast.

If the rebellion amongst HZDS deputies takes off, it will shake Meciar's government severely, all the more because the same process of inner disintegration is

already taking place in its coalition partner, the SNS, whose Central Council meeting on Saturday is tensely awaited.

Meciar Comments

*LD2411234793 Bratislava Rozhlasova Stanica
Slovensko Network in Slovak 2030 GMT 24 Nov 93*

[Excerpt] As we have already informed you, the leadership of the Movement for a Democratic Slovakia [HZDS] club of deputies' to the National Council [of the Slovak Republic] resigned today.

In an interview given today to TASR [Slovak press agency], the movement's chairman and [Slovak] Prime Minister Vladimir Meciar described politicians' reactions to the resignations as a sort of speculation. He said the HZDS political caucus in its session on Monday [22 November] assessed the performance of the deputies' club in view of the constantly growing dissatisfaction with the coordinating and conceptual work of its leadership. This was why Vladimir Meciar called on the club chairman, Ivan Luluha, to reconsider whether he should continue to hold the post of chairman.

Meciar went on to say that decision by the chairman and deputy chairmen of the HZDS deputies' club to take this course of action in order to make possible new elections [for HZDS club leadership] means they were aware of the mistakes they were accused of. According to Vladimir Meciar, this does not necessarily mean that deputies will not return to their previous posts any of those who have resigned.

Elections of new leaders of the HZDS deputies' club will take place on Friday [26 November] during a working meeting between deputies and government ministers in Velky Krtis.

According to an unnamed deputy for the movement, the previous chairman of the club, Ivan Luluha, will not run for the post. [passage omitted]

Slovak, Czech Prime Ministers Criticized

AU2411144093 Prague CTK in English 0926 GMT 22 Nov 93

[Text] Bratislava, Nov 22 (CTK)—If all of us act on our own initiative and if we push one another aside in the Western diplomatic offices, no one will esteem us and we will be treated as puppets in the big political games, the editor-in-chief of the Polish daily GAZETA WYBORCZA Adam Michnik says in an interview with the independent daily NARODNA OBRONA.

Michnik says that the Visegrad Group countries (the Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovakia, and Poland) should consider an analogy to the Benelux, opening the borders, and reaching a full currency convertibility and a certain common market.

Michnik strongly attacks Czech Premier Vaclav Klaus who is, on the one hand, proclaiming liberal theories, but has not applied the Polish variant of the shock therapy and has not let any single company go bankrupt, on the other. If he stated that all the post-communist countries had the same original conditions, it was a demagoguery, Michnik states.

He must be asked... why he says that he is implementing privatization, while he is, in fact, collecting the money acquired by the property sale for the election campaign of his party. Premier Klaus's policy is connecting fantastically two things: extreme liberal rhetoric with extreme socialist policy, Michnik claims.

Michnik says that Slovak Premier Vladimir Meciar, like Polish President Lech Walesa sometimes, is reminiscent of the third world political style where a great guru speaks directly to the masses, while ignoring democratic institutions. Meciar is using populism and nationalism, he is a transient figure, Michnik states.

Michnik also can hardly bear the creeping rehabilitation of Tiso's Slovak state and calls on the Slovaks to come to terms with the fascist episode of their past with honor. The World War Two Slovak state is not the pride, but the shame of the Slovak nation.

Defense Minister Interested in Russian MiGs, Spares

*AU2411153093 Bratislava SMENA in Slovak 22 Nov 93
p 4*

[Interview with Defense Minister Imrich Andrejcek by Dusan Valko; place and date not given: "Getting Ready To Go to Moscow"]

[Excerpt] [Valko] The present condition of our army's combat equipment and weaponry is not up to the required standard. The last crash of a military helicopter near the Sliac airfield at the beginning of the summer was just another confirmation of the obsolescence and wear and tear of military aircraft. How is the Ministry of Defense dealing with this problem?

[Andrejcek] It is true that some of our aircraft are in an unrepaired state, but their condition is not such that they would be incapable of flying. We simply do not allow them to fulfill the set norm of flying hours because, in that case, they would have to be sent to the repair shop, for which we do not have enough funds. We want to modernize aircraft of the MiG-21 type because, after four or five years when will have resources to purchase new aircraft, it will be easier to sell them.

[Valko] The Hungarian Republic concluded an agreement with Russia some time ago on debt settlement by means of arms deliveries. Did you also discuss this issue during your recent visit to Russia?

[Andrejcek] Of course, I discussed this issue with the Russian minister of defense. He said that this did not

depend on his decision but rather the government's. The time is drawing near when I am to pay a visit to Russia again and, if all procedural conditions are fulfilled and I will receive the appropriate authorization from the government, I will do everything I can for us to receive spare parts that are essential for us, provided that the Russian side will be ready to repay in this way debts taken over from the former Soviet Union. Besides spare parts, five MiG-29 aircraft are also at stake, through the addition of which we would like to increase the number of aircraft, in order to achieve a 2 to 1 ratio with Hungary, thus reflecting the size of the two countries' population. I have already consulted the Hungarian minister of defense on this issue. [passage omitted]

Meciar Says IMF, World Bank Delay 1994 Budget

AU2411163793 Prague CTK in English 0658 GMT 24 Nov 93

[Text] Bratislava, Nov 24 (CTK)—The protection and maintenance of the population's social conditions will be the main priorities of the 1994 budget expenditures, Slovak Prime Minister Vladimir Meciar told television on Tuesday [23 November] night.

He confirmed that the budget would not be balanced, as the government had never promised. The deficit resources will be used for investment in industry. Some ministries will get considerably less than they demanded such as the Interior Ministry that will get only one half, Meciar announced.

The budget is based on the assumption of zero-growth the revenues should remain at the 1993 level. The expenditures reckon on a 22- per-cent inflation.

The budget is to be submitted by the end of the week to the parliament which is to discuss it at its December session, Meciar said.

The budget delay is caused by the fact that the work has been impeded by the World Bank and International Monetary Fund missions who recalculate our every step, Meciar claimed. They fill just a consultant role and make recommendations which the government often does not observe, as the situation forces us to do something else, Meciar stated.

Slovak, Hungarian Parliamentary Talks End

LD2411215393 Bratislava Rozhlasova Stanica Slovensko Network in Slovak 1730 GMT 24 Nov 93

[Text] [Announcer] Members of the Foreign Committee of the National Council of the Slovak Republic held a meeting with their Hungarian counterparts in the Hungarian town of Komarom and Slovakia's Komarno. At the close of their discussions held both on the right and the left side of the Danube, the chairmen of both parliamentary committees, Laszlo Kovacs and Ivan Laluha, met journalists. At the news conference Radiozurnal was represented by our reporter Peter Rohac who is now on the line, good evening.

[Rohac] Good evening from Komarno. The chairman of the Hungarian parliamentary committee voiced satisfaction with today's meeting because they discussed three important issues. On the one hand, Hungarian-Slovak contacts, and the role of foreign committees and parliaments in these relations. Then they discussed the question of minorities and the European policy of both states. If these two neighboring countries want to achieve integration in Europe they will firstly have to come to an agreement, disregard historical insults, and look together into the 21st century, because Europe will not accept quarreling partners.

Asked about minorities, Laszlo Kovacs said that this was not an internal matter of either state. The view of members of the minority should form a measure of assessment, and the Hungarian Republic would merely like to see that Hungarians in Slovakia and Slovaks in Hungary felt as at home and were loyal to their respective homelands. They intend to invite representatives of the minorities to the next meeting of both parliamentary committees in order to hear their views.

Ivan Laluha declared that by this meeting they have in effect established a tradition of mutual meetings during which both sides would meet and examine existing problems. These have to be assessed from the viewpoint of some kind of a higher principle, said to be stability in Central Europe. Everything is a process and solutions of the present problems proceed from a degree of knowledge. According to Laluha, they informed their Hungarian colleagues that the issue of family names was being tackled in Slovakia. The question of Euroregions must be assessed carefully and Slovakia would like to initiate a meeting of countries that this concerns.

His assessment of today's discussions was that they succeeded in creating a certain state of confidence, and that it was necessary to judge all positive and negative aspects of mutual relations, and that they ought to revive all parliamentary commissions that have been already set up. These include the commissions for the Gabcikovo hydro-electric project, for Slovak-Hungarian relations, as well as commissions of historians and law makers.

Israeli Delegation Meets with Defense Officials*AU2411182393 Budapest MTI in English 1613 GMT 24 Nov 93*

[Text] Budapest, 24 November (MTI)—An Israeli delegation, headed by Israeli State Secretary of Defence, General Mordechai (Motto) Gur, arrived in Budapest on Wednesday for a five-day visit, at the invitation of Laszlo Szendrei, parliamentary state secretary of defence.

Both sides will talk on local political affairs and the state of their armies, as well as exchange views on the situation in East-Central Europe and the Middle East.

Szendrei will outline Hungary's position on security of East-Central Europe, and give briefs on Hungary's relations with NATO and neighbouring countries. They will also discuss bilateral military ties and prospects for cooperation.

The Israeli general will meet Defence Minister Lajos Fur.

Defense Minister Fur Meets Gur*AU2511213093 Budapest MTI in English 1447 GMT 25 Nov 93*

[Text] Budapest, 25 November (MTI)—A Joint Hungarian-Israeli committee will be formed to help increase military ties and look into opportunities to cooperation on military technology, Hungary's Defence Minister Lajos Fur said in Budapest on Thursday.

Fur met Israeli State Secretary for Defence General Mordechai (Motto) Gur, who arrived in Hungary on Wednesday [24 November]. Fur and Gur discussed current political questions and security in the two countries.

Israel understood Hungary's concern about having a serious hotbed on a border, as it faced a similar problem. The sides agreed that the visit was an important contribution to strengthening military links. To this end, direct contact between smaller military organizations was also seen as desirable.

Defense Secretary: Emphasis Should Be on Planning*AU2411182493 Budapest MTI in English 1541 GMT 24 Nov 93*

[Text] Budapest, 24 November (MTI)—Opening the first Central European exhibition of defence and air equipment today [24 November] in Budapest, Hungarian State Secretary of Defence Laszlo Szendrei said Hungary's economic situation prevented the costly modernization of the Army, so emphasis should be placed on planning and exploration of long-term opportunities.

It was one of the most important tasks of the Army to create a basis for modernizing its technology with the involvement of the domestic industry and international cooperation, Szendrei said.

Hungary's defence policy was based on the unity of cooperation, retention, and defence, he said, adding that Hungary did not consider any country an enemy, and regarded the armed forces as the ultimate means of defence.

Organized with special security, the exhibition features military equipment from 179 companies, from 20 countries, including almost all the major Western arms manufacturers, such as Lockheed, Bell Helicopter, Thyssen, and Saab-Scania. The latter firm displays the pilot cabin of its JAS-39 Gripen fighter plane.

Mikhail Kalashnikov, the designer of the famous machine gun named after him, is also in attendance.

Moldovan Speaker of Parliament Meets Goncz*AU2411192293 Budapest MTI in English 1605 GMT 24 Nov 93*

[Text] Budapest, 24 November (MTI)—Hungarian President Arpad Goncz today [24 November] told a Moldovan delegation headed by the speaker of Parliament that Hungary supported closer ties between Moldova and European institutions, including the Council of Europe. Hungary was prepared to share its experiences of transition, primarily in the fields of economics, banking, and finance.

Speaker Petru Lucinschi said Moldova attached great importance to ties with Hungary, and his visit was aimed at building mutual confidence. He saw good chances for expanding economic cooperation based on Hungarian technology and Moldovan raw materials, even in third markets.

Meets Moldovan Counterpart*AU2511203993 Budapest MTI in English 1509 GMT 25 Nov 93*

[Text] Budapest, 25 November (MTI)—Moldova will study Hungary's transition experiences, and counts on its support for Moldova's goal of European integration, Moldovan Speaker of Parliament Petru Lucinschi told the press in Budapest on Thursday [25 November].

At the news conference, Hungarian Speaker of Parliament Gyorgy Szabad said the Hungarian-Moldovan basic treaty only needed certain technical details clarified before parliamentary ratification.

In connection with Moldova's membership of European organizations, Szabad said Budapest supported the admission of all countries that met the criteria, including parliamentary democracy and guarantees of human and minority rights.

With Moldova working to put these principles into practice, Hungary could support it at international forums.

Slovak, Hungarian Foreign Affairs Committees Meet

AU2411215593 Budapest MTI in English 1936 GMT 24 Nov 93

[Text] Budapest, 24 November (MTI)—Foreign affairs committees of the Visegrad countries should initiate talks with similar committees of countries interested in the Carpathians-Euroregion Cooperation Organization.

This proposal was tabled by a delegation of Hungary's Foreign Affairs Committee, which held talks with Slovakia's Foreign Affairs Committee, in Komarom on Wednesday.

The Slovak committee said development of Hungarian-Slovak relations should not be slowed down by issues that affect minorities. "The two committees can do much to clarify possible misunderstandings between the governments," leader of the Hungarian delegation and Chairman of the committee Laszlo Kovacs said.

Chairman of the Slovak committee, Ivan Lalulah, called for livelier relations between the two committees. He said it was important to clarify the criteria used to determine whether the rights of minorities are observed or not. He said it would be incorrect to continually place minority issues to the foreground of bilateral relations, as this would overshadow possibilities for economic cooperation.

Following the talks, Laszlo Kovacs told MTI's correspondent the committees would next review the situation of minorities in the two countries at a session attended by representatives of both the Hungarians in Slovakia and the Slovaks in Hungary.

Ivan Lahuha said the committees reached a principle agreement, whereby the rights of minorities should be identical to majority rights, and that exercising certain additional rights is, at times, justified. "We naturally expect the minorities to be loyal citizens," he said.

At a press conference on Wednesday, members of the Hungarian delegation said the most reassuring element of the talks was that the Slovak negotiating partners acknowledged that minority rights could not be handled exclusively as an internal affair of a country, nor could the issue be treated exclusively as a bilateral one.

Jeszzenszky Comments on European Union, Borders

AU2511210793 Budapest MTI in English 2045 GMT 24 Nov 93

[Text] Budapest, 24 November (MTI)—"European identity is, for us, the only road that can be chosen," Hungarian Foreign Minister Geza Jeszenszky said on

Wednesday [24 November], addressing a forum organized by the Szekesfehervar (central Hungary) organization of the Hungarian Democratic Forum [MDF].

Jeszzenszky said Hungary's integration in Europe, or its membership in NATO, are merely a matter of time. "There are too many candidates, and it would be a mistake to differentiate between them. On the other hand, the acceptance of so many countries at the same time is impossible," he said.

Discussing the situation of Hungarians living beyond the country's borders, the foreign minister stressed the enforcement of a consistent and persistent policy, and cautioned for patience.

Jeszzenszky said this policy is criticized both at home and abroad. "There are those, who demand a firmer stand in policy, while others consider all that has taken place so far to be too much. These problems will be eliminated with the enforcement of Western European principles, and this can be realized when Hungary becomes a member of the European Union, and when borders will merely be formalities," the Hungarian foreign minister said in Szekesfehervar.

Gonczi Answers Coalition Letter on LA STAMPA Article

AU2411170093 Budapest MAGYAR HIRLAP in Hungarian 24 Nov 93 p 1

[Text of letter from President Gonczi to the heads of the parliamentary groups of the coalition parties; date not given]

[Text] President Arpad Gonczi has sent the following letter to the heads of the parliamentary groups of the coalition parties:

Dear Friends!

I thank you for your letter and I am glad to see that, like me, you also think that differences of views should not hinder the solution of serious problems, and these times are not the times of fruitless debates. The article published in LA STAMPA is partly publicism and partly a situation analysis based on a journalist's evaluation, as well as an interpretation of my words. A journalist has the right to do that. He also has the right to choose the headline of his article alone, irrespective of whether I agree with the summary conclusions or not. As for the danger of extremism, in this case right-wing extremism, even in the area of journalism, my position is well known and, based on your public manifestations, I do not think this position is far from your position. Cause and effect cannot be equal, but they are connected. In my opinion, it is not the article in LA STAMPA or other similar foreign manifestations that harms the interests of Hungary and its government, but rather the political processes that provide the opportunity for the publication of such articles.

Therefore, I can only welcome the position of the heads of the parliamentary groups of the coalition parties, namely that only a dialogue can be the means of clarifying the differences of views between the various political forces. As up till now, I continue to be ready to mediate between the various political forces. I sincerely regret that my previous attempts in this direction have been constantly rejected.

With friendly greetings: Arpad Goncz.

MSZP, SZDSZ Leaders Hold Joint Political Forum

AU2611073793 Budapest MTI in English 2110 GMT 24 Nov 93

[Text] Budapest, 24 November (MTI)—There are no irreconcilable differences between the Hungarian Socialist Party (MSZP) and the social-liberal Alliance of Free Democrats (SZDSZ), according to MSZP Chairman, Gyula Horn. Horn and the SZDSZ's prime minister candidate, Gabor Kuncze, attended a forum in the Miskolc (northeast Hungary) University on Wednesday [24 November] evening.

The SZDSZ, the largest parliamentary opposition party, has always distanced itself from political cooperation with the MSZP, and on this occasion, too, Kuncze declined to confirm the possibility of a coalition stand by the two parties.

The outcome of the 1994 elections was the main topic of the forum. Both politicians agreed that the country faces an extremely hard and negative campaign in the run-up to the elections.

As regards the state of the economy, particularly of agriculture which both opposition politicians termed to be the most alarming, the main tasks are to implement an anti-inflation policy, and to cut back the huge budget deficit, which must be accompanied by the handling of regional crises.

Both Horn and Kuncze said a less expensive, but more efficient state is needed which encourages enterprise and long-term investments with tax reductions and benefits.

Walesa Interviewed on Foreign Policy Issues

LD2511010793 Warsaw Radio Warszawa Network in
Polish 1308 GMT 24 Nov 93

[Interview with Polish President Lech Walesa by several Polish radio correspondents on 24 November; place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] Mr. President, in starting our conversation I would like to quote a statement you have made for PAP. You said: I am a president in order to put the political scene in order, but to put it in order properly, and to draw conclusions from mistakes we make. [sentence as heard] The activity which you are talking about: you would like to start with issues related to our external security and foreign policy. If you allow, we would like to devote this interview to these two issues. However, just to be difficult, I would like to start with a question which is often asked when a head of state turns his attention to foreign and international matters. Does this mean that the situation in our country is now stable and you can, in principle, allow yourself a moment of peace?

[Walesa] You cannot say that the situation is stable. It is stable in as much as the times we have to live in are stable. We can probably see that after the disintegration of the Warsaw Treaty and CMEA [Council for Mutual Economic Assistance], new systems have been created in Europe and the world. In connection with this one cannot talk about stability. One can only talk about the stability of our aspirations and directions, and our actions in these directions. One cannot, however, say that everything has been sorted out, that everyone will be submit to our demands, that everyone will meet us halfway.

When I talk about putting things in order, I shall say that for four years we have tried various directions, concepts, and solutions. Above all we struggled politically for a direction for the reforms and for a political system which should be created in Poland. In fact, we have already discussed almost everything both in parliament and in society. Today the time has come to draw conclusions and to form them into appropriate solutions. This is what I mean when I talk about putting Poland's political system in order.

[Correspondent] Mr. President, in recent press interviews you did not conceal your irritation with the stance of the West. In connection with this do you see for Poland some other way to unite with Europe?

[Walesa] Of course, when it comes to the objective I cannot see any other way, but when it comes to the methods and ways I can. If we are better organized, if we look for strength and support even in other regions, but at least in our neighborhood, we shall then become better partners. The West appreciates money and power, the power of arguments and the power of wisdom. Consequently we must look in those areas for much of our strength and then the others will talk to us differently.

[Correspondent] Don't you think that in our efforts to join Europe we are too selfish—that is, we are failing to notice the arguments of the West, we do not want to understand their arguments? There are recession, unemployment, and other problems there. Of course, these problems look different from where we stand, but for them they are problems and in fact the most important problems.

[Walesa] Yes, but their problems and solutions to these problems and our problems fit together very well. Their recession and their unemployment are connected with overproduction. Our unemployment and our problems are connected with the lack of production, which we are incapable of starting. Because the system has changed it is so immense and so expensive that we neither have the strength, nor the means, to start production, so necessary in all areas. I will not even say that we do not have factories for high performance cars, nor that we need double the number of apartments we have now and that the apartments which already exist are small and of low standard. We have proposals both at home for ourselves and for outside, for Europe.

Let us not delude ourselves: The future of Europe is in the East, where there is the lack of production, where reforms are needed. Consequently, via Poland, which is in the middle, one must prepare all the fittings [osprzet] in order to join up with the East.

In connection with this when we are talking about discontent, we are saying that the West is failing to notice what is indispensable and necessary. If we do not do this, we shall have problems in the future as a result. [sentence as heard]

When we reason in this way we blame the West for failing to notice tomorrow's needs which have to occur.

[Correspondent] Mr. President, the ministers of foreign affairs of the WEU [Western European Union] at its recent meeting in Luxembourg did not propose to Poland—or, in fact, to other post-Communist countries—the status of WEU associate member. A decision in this matter will be taken no earlier than 10 January at a meeting of NATO leaders in Turkey. At the moment one talks about a possible alliance or closer cooperation. Such interesting notions have surfaced—as for example affiliation or a strengthened status. Mr. President, this is only diplomatic language. Nothing arises from this.

[Walesa] The same as nothing arises from a paper signed first and not implemented later. Of course, in this world we have learnt formalities and how to lead our life and find solutions in accordance formalities. So, it would have been better if agreements were formally signed and Poland were to join, to participate. It would be better this way, and that is what the public demands and the politicians as well.

There is also another way. We know that if we are an attractive partner with open borders and a market

economy, everything will merge itself and even politicians will not notice it happened. So, let us be partners with open borders and a free market economy both in Poland and in the world, then everything will come together by itself. But it would be better to conclude it formally, as it is better for people today.

[Correspondent] We have been talking about the economy all the time. But the second issue, which often appears in discussions of politicians at home and abroad, concerns Poland's security, guaranteed by the West European side, by the North Atlantic Treaty and finally by NATO [as heard]. Mr. President, how would you assess the relations between NATO and Poland today?

[Walesa] We have been accustomed to living in a confrontational manner in Europe and in the world. In the east there was Russia in dominant position, so there was confrontation between the Warsaw Pact and NATO.

The economy was shaped in a similar way. After the dissolution of the Soviet Union and after the dissolution of the treaties, there is an empty space, while the West's organizational structure remains. The question I face as a practical man is: What is better? To make our way toward European unity by evolution, which means by joining NATO and the Western economy, or to stay as we are and let life build something on it? I am afraid that if we were to act like that, we could allow the building of another confrontational system, because Russia will put its things in order; it will start talking about a sphere of influence and will rebuild its economic and military position of domination and we will end up where we started, in a confrontational system.

After our great victories, I would like to leave the path of confrontation, and that is why I propose evolutionary solutions to create one Europe, economically and militarily. The West does not want it. Maybe it is not prepared for it; maybe it does not understand. An idea of the West is dangerous and could lead to a confrontational system in Europe, and this is what I have been afraid of.

[Correspondent] Is it only the West, which does not want it or is it also our eastern neighbor, which adopted a somewhat different approach toward your proposal.

[Walesa] One should not be surprised that our eastern neighbor should want to be a power and wants to have even the whole of Europe. I am not surprised. This is normal, and I would think the same way there. But we have to think differently as we are not there and we do not pretend to a power of this kind.

[Correspondent] Mr. President, when talking about our aspirations, and not only about our wish to join NATO, Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin said in an interview for DER SPIEGEL weekly: I do not understand them. What is so attractive about NATO? Why do they have to be members? Do they have too much money? This costs money. I would, first of all like to understand why they need it.

[Walesa] I can only say that if this is his way of thinking, he should not worry about our interests, and he should not make it difficult for us to become part of Europe. This will be the simplest thing to do. Then he will not have to think about our problem. We will manage on our own.

[Correspondent] Mr. President, is the recently published Russian war doctrine, which some people describe as imperial or post-imperial, a threat to Poland?

[Walesa] I will again say what I have already said: If we are to walk along the path proposed by Russia, we will rebuild the confrontational setup, whether we want it or not, and my grandchildren will again be founding Solidarity. I would not like this to happen.

That said, I do not want to do anything against Russia. I do not want to be Russia's enemy, and I do not want to have problems with Russia. However, I do propose joining up with Europe in an evolutionary way. In this evolutionary process, there is today a need, which arises from wisdom and a certain idea, for Poland, Hungary, and the Czech Republic to become part of this setup. [as heard] Later there will be a second stage: the Baltic countries, Ukraine, and Russia as well. In this context, this idea is better, but at the moment we have problems.

[Correspondent] Don't you think the blame for the recent failures in international policy—or let us put it this way, for the lack of success—can be partly put on our diplomacy and also on yourself? Many times you emphasized your role in gaining a favorable attitude for Poland from leaders of other countries. Meanwhile, during their visits to Poland, or your visits abroad, we hear many warm words and declarations, but when it comes to specifics there is a disappointment.

[Walesa] These issues are sometimes quite complicated and sometimes simple. The West knows they have succeeded with the communist system. They know what their pace is, and for this reason they know—in my opinion they are drawing such conclusions—that there is no chance of Russia constituting any threat to Europe or the world. Consequently they say: Why put your stakes on a setup which is not determined and which is risky; things will happen according to our plan and our forecasts anyway. We are so strong economically that Russia is no threat to us. Consequently, what Poles and others want will happen anyway, but at a different pace and at a different time.

Of course, the West's ideas on this are probably right, up to a point. I would not like to experiment here. I am a man who uses and takes advantage of his opportunities. I think that my way is simpler, faster, and more effective.

[Correspondent] Mr. President, at a meeting we talked about at the beginning of our conversation, that is, at the meeting of foreign ministers in Luxembourg, the politicians stated that the issues of involving Poland in the military European structures had to be discussed first with the American politicians. Meanwhile, as American

press sources report, President Bill Clinton has agreed to a Russian demand not to admit Poland to NATO.

[Walesa] Gentlemen, of course we can stamp our feet, we could have a grievance against it, but as I say, there are two conceptions and two main points of view. One is, that the Russian empire, the Soviet empire is impossible to re-create, that it would not be able economically to stand up to re-creation, in a sense, or to pose a threat to America and to Europe. That is why Clinton, arguing like that and doing the calculations on his computers, says, why opt for confrontation today, why annoy Russia when everything is going to be settled as it should be, anyway, which means that we shall be able to cope with it, and today, if they want it, let them have it. It will cost them more, it will make economic and political reforms more difficult, and I speak about Russia here, it will be met with some resistance and discontent. And all in all, it is worth Clinton's and America's while, since it is not as dangerous today as it used to be during the times of the Soviet Union.

[Correspondent] In connection with recent statements by the President of the United States, the term second Yalta has emerged. Would you also see it in such dramatic terms?

[Walesa] Well, there is a similarity today. Indeed, there is a division of influence, and not a great commitment, but as we know the economy will determine a political deal. As the Soviet Union and the satellite states, we have already lost this confrontation. America and the West have won. In this connexion, it looks like Yalta today, but the consequences are not going to be so great as in those days, because experience and the economy are very clear.

[Correspondent] Everything indicates that highly industrialized Asian states will be in the center of interest of U.S. foreign policy. It is said that Europe is going to recede into the background, and that includes Poland as well. Tell me, please whether our aspirations toward European structures should not be viewed also from this angle?

[Walesa] Indeed, they should. But again, we can reason in a different manner still. They who are in recession, that is, the wealthy West, have problems with development, as societies are demanding more than they have today. And here are we, a number of years behind; we have to develop to catch up with those countries. In this connexion, it suits us today and for 20 years to come, as we are going to develop quickly, while the West will not develop in accordance with the idea we are talking about. So, in a few years time, it would be inconvenient, but today, we can develop in peace; we are not equal in Europe. That is why we are going to develop. But for Western Europe this is a problem.

[Correspondent] But do you not have the impression that we have been left to our own devices? Washington, for example, accepted the idea included in the Russian military doctrine of the so-called close border [bliska

granica], which also contains Polish territories, as a zone of absolute Russian influence. How do you like this idea?

[Walesa] And again. This would have been very dangerous 50 years ago, and we know that this was very dangerous. On the other hand, having had these experiences and after this development of communications, pluralism, democracy, and open borders, it is not so disadvantageous. Although we may complain that we have been left to our own devices—in free countries with a free market economy, in democracy, you have to do your own development, you have to look for solutions yourself, because nobody else will do that for you—this is a normal symptom. Of course, in the confrontational arrangement where there is struggle, where the point is totally different, this solidarity is much greater. And this is understandable; we must switch ourselves from a period of fight to a period of work. Only then will we be able to understand these processes that have been taking place in our country, in America, and in western Europe.

[Correspondent] Mr. President, in your opinion, are we now a fully sovereign country?

[Walesa] It all depends on how we understand this. A poor man who has no prospects and no tomorrow is not a free man, because he is enslaved by uncertainty, lack of stability, and so on. So, in this sense, we are not free, we are dependent both on Russia and our neighbors, and we are dependent on the West. In this sense, we are not free. The points of freedom, and how many of these we have achieved, need to be defined once again—surely we have more of them than we had before 1989. But, as I say, in certain spheres, we have many more, but in others we are dependent on mammon, on the economy.

[Correspondent] Mr. President, if you were to name two, or let us say three, European countries that are most friendly toward us, which would they be?

[Walesa] I am the president, and for today, I do not believe in such calculations. For today, there is business to be done. For Lithuania, Ukraine, and others we are quite a big partner, and this is the West—almost America, well, of course in Europe. On the other hand, we are not attractive for Germany, because they have their own problems, or for France. In connection with this, in this egoistic world today we have to think about ourselves.

[Correspondent] Does this mean that we do not have clear allies or clear opponents in Europe?

[Walesa] We do have allies but it all depends... Because if the situation becomes hot and dangerous and we would have to fight—then all of them would be allies.

[Correspondent] Are you sure?

[Walesa] Of course I am. Well, again it depends what the fight would be about. If the fight were for Gdansk, then I have my doubts, but if the fight were for Berlin, then I have no doubts at all. We would be great allies and the Poles would be good—we have heard this many times.

Therefore we should see what is going on. But if the fight were over beef, then we will not be allies because they have overproduction there, then they would invent some diseases—foot and mouth disease or others, or that our cherries are too red. We are therefore, allies in some respects—take ecology for example: They do not want our pollution in Germany, or France, or any other country. We are therefore allies as far as the ecology is concerned—there are no problems in this respect; but in certain other respects, we are competitive and therefore we are not allies. And the little Poles would be good, we have proved this more than once. And so, again, let's see what is going on. And if the point will be, will be, will be, will be beef, then we will not be allies because that is overproduction, then they will think up some illnesses, foot and mouth disease and others, or else the cherries will be too red. And so, we are allies on certain topics, as regards ecology for instance—our chimneys, the smoke goes with the wind to France or to Germany or somewhere else. And so, we are allies in the ecological struggle. That's alright, and there are no problems here. But there are problems, we are competitive on certain matters, and in association with that we are not so very much allies.

[Correspondent] Mr. President, do you not nonetheless feel that the recently perceptible distance with which the leaders of the Western world deal with Poland, might be in part a consequence of the fact that the elections in our country were won by the left?

[Walesa] The political system and order in the country indeed are witness to a greater partnership. We have had a number of governments, a number of parliaments, and in association with this even talks with us were made more difficult. Never mind the fact that the President was constantly stable. And reasoning thus, that is why, well, well, indeed the West might treat us less seriously. For today, this is not worth our while. On the other hand, we have so far shaped the arrangement that already we will be partnerlike. And, in association with this, this is not the point. It, the West still understands within its own categories. It, it evaluates us—even that which is taking place as regards the elections—through its experiences; and of course it commits a great mistake. I have been talking of this for a few days now, that where there are stable democracies, they last 50 years or more. There are specified parties, and there, if some change occurs, then it is clear in what direction this change will go. And it is possible to be dissatisfied, impatient, for, for it is clear who will be and how he will run policy. On the other hand, in the communist states, including Poland within this, it is not as it is in the West. Here, people are divided into the active and the inactive. At the first moment, and in association with this, only later will they be created, these active ones will divide up, more party-like, left, right, Christian and so on, but only in the second phase. Because, because there was no democracy here, there was no freedom here, there were no parties here, and that is why, for the time being, the more active people are coming in. Now if active people and the

people who are more prepared—and these were on the left and more tied to communism—so thus they—...[pauses] If they reject, and they have rejected, all these, these things that were bad then there is no Warsaw Pact and no CEMA. In association with this, Poland is free and the more experienced have greater electoral opportunities. And they won. But, as I say, after the rejection they are more efficient, more prepared, and that is why they cause even greater chances and opportunities. For, as I say, they are more prepared. The right-wing, or the post-Solidarity side, was not prepared. It now has time for preparation, for the drawing of conclusions, and I hope that it will be up to it, for it is necessary to seek equilibrium. And the West, if it does not understand this, if it immediately evaluates us through the categories and measures of the West, then it makes a mistake, and that is why it immediately imagines that the post-communists have won, yes? No.

[Correspondent] Mr. President, until recently it was said that Polish foreign policy is the concern in practice of three centers: the government, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; and Belweder Palace; and parliament. That there is no coordination here. At the moment, a man is responsible for foreign policy who enjoys your full trust. I am thinking of Minister Olechowski. Are you not afraid that the possible failures in our diplomacy might directly burden your account too?

[Walesa] I am not afraid of that. As I was saying, I am drawing simple conclusions after this four-year period. There is time for sorting things out. And you are right. It has been the case thus far that parliamentarians presented some ideas, depending on where they traveled. They were saying something about politics. Government and presidential ministers traveled, and everybody tried to grab a bit for themselves and we were not taken seriously by the outside world.

I have already learned how to be president. I know and I plan to form the system which will be more clear so that there can be no such divisions, to sort out a political scene, particularly outside. I am convinced that my adviser Olechowski, who is talented, can do this. I am convinced of that, and I am not afraid of drawbacks. We will not allow them.

[Correspondent] You have basically summed up the attitude of Europe and the United States toward Poland. You have told DIE WELT journalists that the West does not treat us as a partner and that NATO is looking for arguments not to admit us. You are well known for being able to anticipate certain events. Could you not have anticipated this a little earlier?

[Walesa] No. I knew this would happen. I knew I would have to handle it. That is why I know that my idea will win. The only things I do not know are the time and the price. I am talking about it. Could this have been changed? No. This cannot be changed because this has to

be discussed, arguments have to win in the democratic system. I am sure that my arguments will win, and I know that we will get there.

[Correspondent] Leaders of the Western states often stress that it would be easier for the former socialist states to join European structures if they better coordinated their efforts. Please explain why countries such as Poland, the Czech Republic, and Hungary, countries which are bound by certain common interests, cannot coordinate their efforts to join Europe?

[Walesa] The answer is short. Gentlemen, how long have you been laughing at EC-2? And what is it? This is what I have been saying from the beginning, that sooner or later regional cooperation is needed. And the whole of Poland screamed at me, asking what I want to rebuild. There is one condition—the old structure cannot be rebuilt. Today I know that if we would do as Walesa said we would be more efficient, we would be respected. It was needed, it is needed, and will still be needed for a long time.

[Correspondent] Are you going to present, in the near future, an initiative as far as international politics is concerned? Do you have such plans?

[Walesa] I have many ideas. However, today when I look at the West, NATO, the United States, and Russia, I have to behave a little differently. I have to do more and speak less. I have already presented my ideas, and I know they were good. I know that those who rejected them will regret this.

[Correspondent] Mr. President, have you any plans for meetings in the near future either with leaders of states adjoining Poland, or with the U.S. or French presidents?

[Walesa] I have received many invitations. I have not taken advantage of them because of our internal problems. At the same time, there are some ideas which have not been fully clarified. This concerns the varied politics of our parliamentarians. All these indicate that there is no point in struggling, because others will come and destroy. That is why I limit the number of my visits. However, some scheduled visits have been postponed because of diplomatic misunderstandings. I will have to pay a few visits.

[Correspondent] Mr. President, thank you very much for the interview.

Walesa on Prospects for Closer Ties with W. Europe

LD2411135393 Warsaw Radio Warszawa Network in Polish 1105 GMT 24 Nov 93

[Interview with President Lech Walesa by unidentified correspondent on 24 November; place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] Mr. President, in recent press interviews you did not conceal your irritation at the

stance of the West. In connection with this do you see some other way for Poland to unite with Europe?

[Walesa] Of course, when it comes to the objective I cannot see any other way, but when it comes to ways and means I can. If we are better organized, if we look for strength and support even in other regions, but at least in our neighborhood, we shall then become better partners. The West appreciates money and power, the power of arguments and the power of wisdom. Consequently we must look in those areas for much of our strength and then the others will talk to us differently.

[Correspondent] Don't you think that in our efforts to join Europe we are too selfish—that is, we are failing to notice the arguments of the West, we do not want to understand their arguments? They have recession, unemployment, and other problems there. Of course, these problems look different from where we stand, but for them they are problems and in fact the most important problems.

[Walesa] Yes, but their problems and solutions to these problems and our problems fit together very well. Their recession and their unemployment are connected with overproduction. Our unemployment and our problems are connected with the lack of production, which we are incapable of starting. The system has changed it is so immensely and so expensively that we neither have the strength nor the means to start production, so necessary in all areas. I will not even say that we do not have factories for high performance cars, nor that we need double the number of apartments we have now and that the apartments which already exist are small and of low standard. We have proposals both at home for ourselves and for outside, for Europe.

Let us not delude ourselves: the future of Europe is in the East, where there is lack of production, where reforms are needed. Consequently, via Poland, which is in the middle, all the fittings [osprzet] must be prepared in order to join up with the east.

In connection with this, when we are talking about discontent, we are saying that the West is failing to notice what is indispensable and necessary. If we do not do this, we shall have problems in the future as a result. [sentence as heard]

Arms Enterprise Denies Manufacturing AK-47 Guns

LD2411172693 Warsaw PAP in Polish 1631 GMT 24 Nov 93

[Text] Warsaw, 24 Nov—There were 300 AK-47 machine guns among the weapons discovered in the foiled attempt to smuggle arms from Poland to Northern Ireland, read the statement of State Protection Office [UOP], which was sent to PAP today. But Bronislaw Kilian, the director of the Radom "Lucznik" enterprise told PAP today that "we have not manufactured the AK-47 for 20 years."

Asked about more details about this smuggling, Stanislaw Straus, the director of the Central Engineering Administration told PAP: "I have nothing to add to the UOP statement." The PAP journalist was sent to interview Straus both by the press office of the Ministry of Foreign Economic Cooperation and by the "Cenzin," the ministry's agency for arms trade.

Sejm Rejects UD Deputies' Privatization Bill

LD2611092893 Warsaw PAP in Polish 0849 GMT 26 Nov 93

[Excerpt] Warsaw, 26 Nov—The Sejm today rejected the draft law on privatization of state enterprises, submitted by Democratic Union [UD] deputies, which would be part of the State Enterprise Pact. Therefore, the Sejm Extraordinary Commission, which set up to consider drafts concerning the Pact, must wait until the government submits its own proposals.

The government's draft law on the division of profits in certain joint-stock companies owned by the state treasury, amendments to the Labor Code, as well as the draft law on the financial management of state enterprises were also sent back to the same Commission by the Sejm today. [passage omitted]

Foreign Credits Insufficient To Restructure Economy

LD2411194793 Warsaw PAP in English 1702 GMT 24 Nov 93

[Text] Warsaw, Nov. 24—The total amount of foreign credits now available in Poland is 3.6 billion U.S. dollars and it is not sufficient to restructure the entire economy, Director Zbigniew Kopyra of the Central Office of Planning (CUP) told a seminar in Warsaw on Wednesday.

The seminar was organized to discuss why the available foreign credits are not being fully used. According to Kopyra the blame should not be put on prospective borrowers only since the terms of obtaining such credits are frequently discouraging. Also, many foreign credits are of a preferential character which clearly is another barrier, he added.

On the other hand the lenders are discouraged by the protracted procedure applied by the state administration in their own countries in dealing with relevant agreements. Apart from that they fear frequent changes in the Polish legal regulations, Kopyra said.

He also stressed the fact that the financial situation of Polish enterprises continues to be difficult which significantly reduces their interest in foreign credits.

An additional obstacle to using foreign credits is the Finance Ministry's regulation on a 60 per cent guarantee for foreign investment credits which does not allow the

Polish enterprises to use bigger credits requiring a full guarantee of repayment from the state budget, Kopyra declared.

Pawlak Outlines Policies

WS2611093893 Warsaw RZECZPOSPOLITA in Polish 25 Nov 93 p 7

[Report by Antoni Kowalik: "Stabilization First, Development Next; Prime Minister Pawlak Calms Down Entrepreneurs' Anxieties"]

[Text] "Bringing the economy to its health, and limiting inflation to a single-digit level, is possible within two to three years," said Prime Minister Waldemar Pawlak while attending a meeting of the Economic Chamber's National Council [KIG] on 24 November. "There is no contradiction whatsoever, between the state and government general interests, and expectations and needs that the economy has," the prime minister told the entrepreneurs and representatives of economic self-governments who assembled in the Warsaw Institute of Technology's assembly hall.

During the debate to which Prime Minister Pawlak listened, participants of the meeting presented a whole range of issues and problems which—in their view—require fast and efficient solutions. The first item discussed was taxes, which—according to the entrepreneurs—cannot be just a mechanical instrument for filling up the Treasury; taxes must also be a motivating factor. Appeals were made to initiate an effective fight against the economic "grey area" that—through unfair competition—significantly decreases the revenue of those companies which operate legally and regularly contribute to the state budget.

It was argued during the meeting, that the customs system and the situation at the borders, should be corrected and improved. Figures were cited that showed that the number of companies participating in foreign trade had increased by 500 times, whereas the number of customs officials had only doubled. Traffic jams at the borders cause small shipping companies to go bankrupt; their vehicles spend enormous amounts of time waiting to cross the border.

As KIG Chairman Kazimierz Pazgan said, the economy needs a strategy based on making money—by employees, by companies, and in the final analysis, also by the country itself. We must decide on whether we want to be making money on raw materials and semi-finished products, or on final products.

According to the entrepreneurs, small and medium companies require governmental support. The entrepreneurship ministry ceased to exist, and so the government should now order that its functions be performed by economic self-governments. They must also take part in decisions concerning company activity, since resolutions and ordinances are in most cases issued by officials who this way inflict harm on the economy. That theme was

also stressed by KIG President Andrzej Arendarski, who also said that important economic decisions cannot be made without participation by self-governments.

"Our approach toward promoting Polish merchandise in foreign markets must definitely be changed," Arendarski added. He also stressed that economic policy must include the aspect of creating equal-chance starting-points and bases for competition with regard to Polish producers and their merchandise.

During a press conference which also took place at the meeting, the prime minister stressed that the government is interested in cooperation with economic self-governments, including the area of small and medium companies, and with regard to regional policies.

Over the next few months, the government plans to concentrate its efforts on providing stability to the economy's functioning for next year, so that it could then follow up with some strategic decisions which will accelerate the country's development.

The main directions of the state's economic activity, are in accordance with the need to establish a comprehensive infrastructure, and from that standpoint, the directions relate to communications, information and related industries, transportation, financial infrastructure, and also to the establishment of an efficient administration apparatus. These are supposed to facilitate a pro-export economic and domestic market development.

Foreign and domestic investors are to enjoy equal opportunities in the Polish market.

The government will support domestic companies that want to develop themselves and invest. This support should especially be in the form of export benefits, such as the establishment of an export guarantor and security agencies. When it comes to privatization, initiating installment-based sellings is especially important from a developmental standpoint. All this should be facilitated by a clear legal system, and a tax system that would be comprehensive.

The current tax structure will be retained. Only some aspects of the tax system would be changed, so as to avoid establishing new taxes. What is needed is organizational and legal measures that would improve tax collectibility. When paying taxes becomes an obligation that nobody will evade, then one can start talking about lowering tax rates. "Whoever pays all his due taxes, must enjoy the state's respect and protection," the prime minister said.

Opinion Poll Shows Pawlak Viewed Favorably

LD2411145693 Warsaw PAP in English 1303 GMT 24 Nov 93

[Text] Warsaw, Nov. 24—Fifty-eight per cent of respondents to a recent poll mentioned Prime Minister Waldemar Pawlak as their favourite politician.

The poll carried out by the public opinion polling centre (OBOP) on November 8-9 showed every second respondent giving preference to Krzysztof Skubiszewski and 48 per cent declaring it for Cardinal Jozef Glemp and Hanna Suchocka.

Eighty-one per cent of respondents to another poll, carried out by the public opinion sounding centre (CBOS) on November 10-15, said they would trust in Waldemar Pawlak, 69 per cent in Krzysztof Skubiszewski and 60 per cent said that Hanna Suchocka is a politician they would trust.

Jaroslaw Kaczynski, Leszek Moczulski and Jan Olszewski topped the list of politicians who, according to the respondents, do not deserve to be trusted.

Kredyt Bank, EBRD Sign Cooperation Agreement

LD2411230993 Warsaw PAP in English 2031 GMT 24 Nov 93

[Text] Warsaw, Nov. 24—"Kredyt Bank S.A." on Wednesday signed an agreement with the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) on joint financing of investment projects and on providing credit guarantees.

The EBRD is the first foreign bank which will grant zloty guarantees in Poland, board member of the Polish bank Izabela Sewerynik said.

Under the agreement, the EBRD's guarantees will cover 50 percent of funds allocated by the "Kredyt Bank S.A." for investment projects. Some projects will be financed jointly by the two banks, that is each of them will assign half of the sum of the granted loan.

In future, these two lending institutions plan to expand this cooperation with credit lines or mutual loans. The EBRD does not rule out capital investments of "Kredyt Bank S.A.", Sewerynik claimed.

The EBRD will provide guarantees on credits for small and medium-sized enterprises, in which the state treasury holds less than 49 percent of shares, for privatised and joint-venture companies.

It has been agreed, that the sum of a single loan granted within the framework of a cooperation with the EBRD will not exceed 2 million dollars and will not be lower than 100,000 dollars. The loans will carry an interest rate which will depend on the London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR) - (in special cases a fixed interest rate will be used) - increased by a 3-7 percent margin. Loans will be granted for periods of time ranging from 18 to 60 months.

The EBRD was set up in May 1990 and inaugurated in April 1991 to support reforms in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe.

Walesa's Constitutional Tribunal Ideas Get Mixed Reaction

WS2511141993 Warsaw RZECZPOSPOLITA in Polish
25 Nov 93 p 2

[Report by Jerzy Pilczynski: "How Much Power for Constitutional Tribunal?; Sejm Began Its Session"]

[Text] One of the more important items on the agenda of the Sejm session which has just begun, is President Walesa's proposal for changes in the Constitution and also in the Constitutional Tribunal Law, to render the Tribunal's verdicts final and not subject to the possibility of being overruled by the Sejm by a two-thirds majority, as is the case now. This is to apply not only to constitutionality of laws, but also to the issue of whether laws conflict with international agreements ratified by Poland.

According to those presidential proposals—which were presented before the Sejm by [chief of President's Office] Lech Falandysz—time limits imposed on the Constitutional Tribunal should also be eliminated. When the Tribunal was being created, it was not empowered—for political reasons—with the right to verify the constitutionality of laws enacted before March 1982.

Fundamental reservations regarding the presidential proposals were raised on behalf of the Democratic Left Alliance [SLD] by Deputy Jerzy Jaskiernia, who was the first to take the floor during the debate. He said that although SLD has always said that verdicts by the Tribunal should be regarded as final, the current initiative by the president seems ill-timed. That is because it is improper to be conducting only partial changes of the political system at a point when the parliament is under the burden of working on economic legislation and on the budget, and when the National Assembly's Constitutional Commission is just beginning to work on a new constitution. Jaskiernia also expressed his doubts as to whether there are enough reasons to grant the Tribunal such significant powers at a stage when a new constitution is still not here, while the Little Constitution does not deal with civic rights. So which constitution will the Tribunal defend?

Jaskiernia critically assessed some detailed provisions contained in the presidential proposals, such as depriving the Sejm the right to recall judges of the Tribunal, and a lack of safeguards against the Tribunal's verdicts "blowing up the budget or ruining the economy." Doubts were also expressed by SLD concerning how the proposal deals with the highly complicated issue

of verifying the conformity of laws with international agreements, and also concerning the absence from the president's proposals of some measures which have been postulated for a long time now—creation of popular claims enforceable before the Tribunal, as well as changes in how its members are selected.

But despite all these objections, the SLD Sejm Deputies Club did not oppose submitting the proposals before the appropriate Sejm commissions. Representatives of the other clubs were also in favor of this, except that Leszek Moczulski of the Confederation for an Independent Poland [KPN] spoke in favor of submitting the proposals before the Sejm part of the National Assembly's Constitutional Commission.

Many of the critical remarks by Jaskiernia were shared by Jozef Zych of the Polish Peasant Party, who said that the issue of whether the Tribunal's verdicts are final or not, should be determined by a new constitution. Janusz Szymanski of the Union of Labor [UP] stressed that the president's initiative is either premature or belated, and that it has a clear political connotation to it.

Deputies for the Non-Party Bloc in Support of Reforms and KPN were in favor of the presidential proposals. Also, Deputy Jerzy Ciemniowski, speaking on behalf of the Democratic Union [UD], said that the proposed widening of the Tribunal's powers is comprehensive, but this is exactly what the Tribunal's range of functions should be like.

- On Wednesday [24 November], the Sejm had a second reading of the government's draft of an import tax law. The draft provides that the current additional 6-percent customs duty be replaced by an import tax in 1994. Revenue from the tax for the state budget should be in the range of 15 trillion zlotys. The various deputies clubs expressed their quite unanimous support for the draft.
- The clubs also expressed their approval for a proposal submitted by some UP deputies to reach a resolution imposing an obligation on the government to report (by 10 December 1993) on measures taken to implement the National Investment Funds Law.
- Deputy Juliusz Braun of the UD Deputies Club said he intends to address a parliamentary question to the prime minister, concerning a statement made by Culture and Art Minister Kazimierz Dejmek during an interview with RZECZPOSPOLITA, in which he called the boycott by actors during the 1981 martial law an "act of a humbug and a buffoon."

Iliescu, World Bank Official Discuss Loans

AU2411144693 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 1100 GMT 24 Nov 93

[Text] The current stage of projects underway and prospects for the program of cooperation with the World Bank were the main subject discussed today by Romania's president, Mr. Ion Iliescu, with the chief of that institution's mission in Bucharest. The discussion focused especially on the question of granting the second installment of the loan for structural adjustment, as well as other projects, which are in the process of being launched in our country in such areas as investments, restructuring, and the development of the private sector, the minister of finance, Mr. Florin Georgescu, told journalists. He also said that the result of the meeting was positive and expressed the hope that there would be good progress in cooperation with the World Bank in the future.

Our reporter, Gabi Danescu, noted that the meeting at Cotroceni Palace [presidency] was attended by State Minister Mircea Cocea, president of the Council for Coordination, Strategy, and Economic Reform, and Presidency spokesman, Ambassador Traian Chebeleu.

Vacaroiu, EC Mission Chief Discuss Reform

AU2411164393 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 1825 GMT 23 Nov 93

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Nicolae Vacaroiu, today met at Victoria Palace with Karen Fogg, chief of the permanent delegation of the European Community in Bucharest. The main subject discussed were the actions included in the government restructuring and privatization program.

Emphasizing the existence of the institutional framework and required laws to implement these programs, the prime minister pointed out that the pace at which they are implemented is far from the planned one, something that does not mean that the restructuring and privatization process has come to a halt. He informed the representative of the European Community about the government's desire to dynamize this process and referred, among other things, to the need to coordinate all involved institutions more firmly and to identify new privatization formulas that will pull out the best trade companies from under the aegis of public institutions in a few months' time, stated the government spokesman.

In this sense, there is hope that in the first six months of 1994, which will be devoted to privatization and restructuring, a few thousands of such companies will be privatized.

In turn, Karen Fogg assured the government, through the prime minister, of support from the institution she represents. She also mentioned the numerous and difficult problems that have to be overcome in the coming severe winter.

The government spokesman also stated that Mrs. Fogg was of the opinion that, as far as the PHARE [Economic Reconstruction Aid for Poland and Hungary] programs for Romania were concerned, the government should ensure coordination of actions between all institutions in order to develop effective relations with European accords [as heard]. At the same time, Mrs. Fogg emphasized that it was necessary for government actions to be much more extensive and more clearly explained to the people. She also noted the lack of a professional and vigorous analysis on reform issues, according to the same source.

Iliescu Refuses To Submit to Opposition 'Blackmail'

AU2511150093 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 2000 GMT 24 Nov 93

[Text] Romanian President Ion Iliescu met at Cotroceni Palace for two hours tonight with the leaders of certain parties represented in Parliament in order to discuss the organization of festivities devoted to Romania's national day. The meeting, which was initially scheduled for 1800 hours, began with a 30-minute delay, which was due, as the head of state said, to the presidency's efforts to convince the leaders of the opposition parties to participate in the discussion. At the end of the meeting, President Ion Iliescu made the following statement:

[Begin Iliescu recording] In conclusion, I would like to say a few words. This meeting was not convened at the request of the Democratic Convention [CDR] or in connection with the private issue of the former king's desire to come to Romania. This was the regular meeting that I wanted to hold with the heads of parties, before the events of last week.

Two months have elapsed since the previous meeting, when we established a joint action platform, and we wanted to review the preparations and how the national day festivities will proceed. In this framework, we held a meeting with the working group and the representatives of the parties who have examined various concrete aspects of the occasion throughout this period, something of which you are aware.

Second, I do not want to trivialize the absence from this meeting of the parties who failed to be present here, hence, I will express my regret for this attitude and refusal of dialogue, which actually amounts to a boycott of the meeting. I would like to ignore all the insolent remarks included in their statements of the past two weeks or printed in various press articles. I would also like to disregard their arrogance in refusing to participate in a meeting alongside with other political groupings. This would, rather, be a (?reflection upon themselves). They want to hold me responsible for the situation and are actually demanding a decision by resorting to this kind of blackmail: either the King comes or else. I refuse to submit to any kind of blackmail. I believe this disqualifies and discredits those who refused to participate in this meeting.

It is regrettable that they are trying to exploit the difficult situation in the economy and the hardships and difficulties faced by the people on the eve of our national day, which we all wanted, or at least claimed to want, to give an appropriate note of unity.

There is no reason to express concern, since it is no big blow that they did not make an appearance here. However, we must seriously examine the matter, including the political significance of this refusal. First of all, I maintain that we should all subscribe to Mr. Coposu's [Corneliu Coposu, president of the National Peasant Christian Democratic Party-PNTCD] opinion, which was also endorsed by other parties, regarding the inopportune arrival in the country of former King Mihai, since it would disturb these manifestations. I subscribe to that opinion of Mr. Coposu and I believe that everybody has. We did express our appreciation for that stance. I say that we should not close the door to dialogue and, in the coming days, should strive—I will try myself, and I ask you to meet with them in Parliament, too—to make them see reason and convince them not to choose the path of deepening the state of tension and conflict in the country's political life, at such an important moment for the nation. If they refuse it, then they are assuming all responsibility for it, and they will not be able to transfer this responsibility onto the others. They will have to bear full responsibility for refusing to cooperate at a time of national concord, which the national day should have represented.

I believe that now is not the time to make any changes in the program on which we agreed, which required huge preparations at a central level by all the state institutions, at the local level, in Alba Iulia, and so forth. Everything should remain as agreed upon and we should all strive to give an appropriate note to this national manifestation. Regarding the Parliament, I would like you to make concrete arrangements in the coming days to ensure an appropriate atmosphere. We should also try to convince them to avoid holding their planned separate manifestation, which may indeed reflect very poorly upon the authors of this political isolation at a time of national unity. In Parliament, you should also strive to achieve a certain level of understanding, so as to impart a certain solemn note on the Parliament session devoted to the National Day. This is not the time to bring forth the elements of discord, disagreement, confrontation, and so forth. Likewise, this is not the time to make the trial of the monarchy or non-monarchy. We are talking rather about a crucial moment in Romania's national history. We should proceed solemnly, by taking into consideration the historical significance of this moment.

Of course, the difficult problems of the economy are still there to be solved. We must also talk to the trade unions about the labor action scheduled to take place on the very eve of the National Day. On both these issues, I believe that we should first grant all support to the government, particularly in Parliament, where the government will submit certain legislative measures for discussion and approval, which are part and parcel of the

reform program and of the joint platform discussed with the international bodies, including IMF. Likewise, we should find a common language with the social factors and the trade unions, since everybody is interested in solving—at the level of the possibilities of our economy—the problems and hardships of the people. These problems cannot be solved through demagoguery or disturbances in the economic flow. Therefore, we should conduct an active and open dialogue with the trade unions, so that labor actions take place in a natural and normal framework that do not disturb the production process and economic activity, otherwise the conditions and possibilities of solving current social and economic problems are worsened. We have to overcome a difficult period, and we must do that by showing an appropriate degree of understanding. At the same time, we should strive to find ways and means of solving problems. [end Iliescu recording]

Portuguese Defense Minister Meets With Vacaroiu

AU2611073493 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1514 GMT 25 Nov 93

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 25/11/1993—The Portuguese military delegation led by Portugal's Minister of Defence Joaquim Fernando Nogueira as received Thursday, 5 November by Prime Minister Nicolae Vacaroiu at the Victoria Palace in Bucharest.

The dialogue was centred on matters related to military cooperation and on the general aspects of the reform process in Romania.

The Portuguese defence minister remarked that the Romanian Army contributed to the instatement of a climate of security and stability, necessary for the implementation of the reforms. He noted that Romania and Portugal had joint interests and common features, and that the experience accumulated by Portugal in carrying out reformist programmes, in privatisation particularly, could be useful to Romania.

The Romanian defence minister Nicolae Spiroiu, who attended the talks, said the two countries would sign, the same day, a statement of intention as the starting point for an annual cooperation programme between them.

Discusses NATO With Melescanu

AU2611073593 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1658 GMT 25 Nov 93

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 25/11/1993—The minister of defence and deputy-prime minister of the Portuguese Government, Joaquim Fernando Nogueira, had Thursday, 5 November, talks with Romania's Minister of Foreign Affairs Teodor Melescanu.

During the interview the two sides made an analysis of the meeting the Eastern European Union Ministerial Council has recently held, and of the summit meeting the North Atlantic Assembly is going to hold in January

1994, and discussed the possibility of a future mutual visit at the level of heads of state and government. The sides also approached aspects regarding the relations between NATO and the European Union (EU), seen as a link between the European and the transatlantic security entities.

At the end of the interview the Portuguese dignitary stated: "There is a great convergence of the two countries' viewpoints, as well as a great willingness on both sides for the building of a climate of dialogue apt to avert, in future, tensions on the continent."

The visit to Romania of the Portuguese minister of defence is the first by a member of the Portuguese Government.

Signs 'Statement of Intent'

AU2611073693 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1728 GMT 25 Nov 93

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 25/11/1993—Minister of Defence and Deputy Prime Minister of Portuguese Government, Joaquim Fernando Nogueira, and the Romanian minister of defence Lieutenant General Niculae Spiroiu signed a "statement of intent" on the cooperation between the two ministries.

The Romanian minister told a press conference held after the signing that talks had been held on the stage of the reform going on in Romania, in the Army included. The speaker assessed the visit to be very important for Romania, that will benefit from assistance by Portugal in the process of integration in European security structures.

Joachim Fernando Nogueira said he was satisfied with his contacts with Romanian authorities. He added that his visit to Romania as a first step in furthering the cooperation between the two countries. He could see with his own eyes that Romania was strictly observing the embargo imposed to former Yugoslavia, despite the losses it has triggered for it, he added.

PAC, BNS Agree on Social Pact

AU2611111993 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 0500 GMT 26 Nov 93

[Text] The principles and structure of the social pact with the trade union movement were agreed upon between the Civic Alliance Party [PAC] and the Executive Bureau of the National Trade Union Bloc [BNS] during a meeting yesterday.

As a PAC communique says, the two sides arrived at the conclusion that the current government does not guarantee the credibility and implementation of the principles of a socioeconomic pact.

Under these conditions, the communique emphasizes, it is necessary to form a wide open government made up of parties determined to begin the reform process in a genuine way and to guarantee the strengthening and operation of the democratic institutions in Romania.

The BNS also issued a communique stressing that the two sides reached a principled accord on all subjects discussed and agreed on cooperation possibilities.

The same was specified during the meeting between the BNS and representatives of the Social-Democratic Party of Romania.

The Alfa Trade Union Cartel has announced the future actions which it intends to organize in several cities throughout the country and in Bucharest. At yesterday's news conference, it was announced that meetings will be organized in some counties and that a meeting followed by a march will take place in Bucharest from 6-10 December. Signatures will be gathered for 2-hour warning strikes in the federation followed by general strikes in all organizations of the Alfa Cartel. Dissatisfaction was expressed with the executive power, which, in the opinion of the Cartel's vice president, Romulus Nita, has proved unable to cope with the negative phenomena in the economy and has no coherent economic recovery program.

Serbs Urge Postponement of Geneva Talks

LD2411144193 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1332 GMT 24 Nov 93

[Text] Jagodina, 24 Nov (TANJUG)—Momcilo Krajisnik, president of the republic of Srpska assembly, told Jagodina Radio today that a delegation of the republic of Srpska will insist on the postponement of negotiations which are to be held in Geneva on 29 November, because, he said, the meeting has not been prepared.

"The international community is conditioning, not to say blackmailing, the republic of Srpska to make territorial concessions to the Muslims, while it knows very well that by making the latest concessions we rounded up 30 percent of the territory of former Bosnia-Herzegovina which should become a Muslim state," Krajisnik said adding that he does not know where the Serbs can give the Muslims 3 percent more territory. It will be very difficult to reach an agreement if the replacement of the notion of quantity by the notion of quality is not accepted, he said.

"If they do not accept our proposal and if the meeting is not postponed, we will again go to Geneva with a sense of bitterness at heart, thinking that the international community has double standards," he said.

According to him, Sarajevo and Tuzla are concentration camps for the Serbs today, while the international community has been doing very little to free them by political means. "It is shameful for the international community to be tolerating a situation in which 60,000 Serbs in Sarajevo are suffering under conditions of the most austere discrimination and torture by an extremist Muslim wing which has been holding them hostage under the alleged pretext of preventing the Serbs from attacking Sarajevo," Krajisnik concluded.

Krajisnik: Serbs Cannot Make Concessions to Muslims

LD2411174693 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1511 GMT 24 Nov 93

[Excerpt] Obrenovac, 24 Nov (TANJUG)—At the Luxembourg meeting, the international community again tried to put the blame on the Serbs by political means, instead of insisting on a just solution for restoring peace in former Bosnia-Herzegovina, Momcilo Krajisnik, president of the assembly of the republic of Srpska, said on Obrenovac Radio's "Nonstop" program.

The plan for the progressive suspension of sanctions is completely unrealistic under these conditions, Krajisnik said. "The international community has persistently been turning a blind eye to the fact that the Muslim side has set yet another trap behind its demand for the three to four percent of territory, although the quality of the territory granted to them is much higher than of that which belongs to us. As much as 30 percent of the industrial facilities of the former Bosnia-Herzegovina are located in Sarajevo municipality alone, which makes

up 3 percent of the territory [of Bosnia-Herzegovina], while the issue of Sarajevo itself still remains open. In any case, we have not got any territory which we could give away. I must add that we have not received any signals or demands from Serbia that we should accept the proposal on territorial concessions." [passage omitted]

Chairman Rejects Division of Country, Secession, Annexation

AU2411203493 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 1800 GMT 24 Nov 93

[Senada Cumurovic report on the address by Bosnia-Herzegovina Assembly Chairman Miro Lazovic to conference marking the 50th anniversary of the Anti-Fascist Council of National Liberation of Bosnia-Herzegovina in Sarajevo on 24 November—recorded]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Lazovic] We see no other way now other than the struggle for a unitary, territorially integrated, multinational, democratic, and independent state of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The decisions of AVNOBiH [Anti-Fascist Council of National Liberation of Bosnia-Herzegovina, political and executive body formed in 1943, transformed into the Bosnia-Herzegovina Assembly in 1945] clearly made the choice between good and evil, between the forces of destruction and the forces of coexistence, and between the survival and obliteration of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina. The pre-war [World War II] plan devised between the Croatian and Serbian finest to divide Bosnia-Herzegovina and obliterate it as a state, political, geographical, and cultural entity was rejected by these decisions.

Therefore AVNOBiH and AVNOJ [Anti-Fascist Council of National Liberation of Yugoslavia] rejected the plans for the annexation of Bosnia-Herzegovina as a province without statehood features to Serbia or Croatia.

Today our choice is and has to be equally unambiguous. There can be no division of Bosnia-Herzegovina, no secession and no annexation of parts of Bosnia-Herzegovina. [passage omitted]

Koljevic on New E.U. Proposal for Bosnia-Herzegovina

LD2511225893 Belgrade TANJUG in English 2112 GMT 25 Nov 93

[Text] Belgrade, Nov 25 (TANJUG)—Vice-President of the Serb Republic (RS) Nikola Koljevic on Thursday said if the suspension of United Nations sanctions against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, proposed by the European Union (E.U.), meant the lifting of the sanctions in the most vital areas—transportation, oil and other fuels—"we can seriously negotiate."

"If what is offered is offered drop by drop, I do not believe we can have any serious discussions," Koljevic

said on "one argument more" on Radio Belgrade's programme one. He set out that talks with Europe should be conducted on the basis of the principles of "the supply and the demand."

The E.U. on Monday called for a progressive suspension of sanctions against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia on condition the Bosnian Serbs agree to make additional territorial concessions to the Muslims and a "modus vivendi" is found for the Republic of Serb Krajina (RSK).

A peace agreement calling for Bosnia-Herzegovina as a union of three ethnic republics was turned down by the Bosnian Muslims in early September. The Muslim side insisted on greater territorial concessions than those already made by the Bosnian Serbs and Croats.

The E.U. plan will be discussed in Geneva on Monday, at a meeting to be attended by the E.U. foreign ministers, the political leaders and military commanders of the three warring sides in Bosnia-Herzegovina, presidents of the Yugoslav republics of Serbia and Montenegro Slobodan Milosevic and Momir Bulatovic, respectively, President of Croatia Franjo Tudjman, the commander of the U.N. Protection Force in the former Yugoslavia (UNPROFOR), the co-chairmen of the international conference on the former Yugoslavia, and the peace envoys of Russia and the United States.

Koljevic said he was not acquainted with the details of the E.U. offer because the RS leadership had not received "the paper." He assessed, however, that Serbs were timidly being offered something for the first time.

The RS vice-president said the E.U. had agreed on the principles of the lifting of the sanctions but not on the modalities. Koljevic set out that the first thing that had to be done in Geneva was to state explicitly what had been said timidly.

Koljevic said that it would also have immediately to be made clear that the position of Serbs in the RSK could not be compared with the position of the ethnic Albanians in Kosovo and Metohija, the southern province in the Yugoslav republic of Serbia. He said, however, that the position of Serbs in the RSK could be compared "with the position of Croats in Bosnia-Herzegovina."

A strong ethnic-Albanian separatist movement has for decades been active in Kosovo and Metohija. The movement's leaders have openly been calling for the province's secession from Serbia and Yugoslavia and its unification with Albania.

Krajisnik Tells Silajdzic No More Concessions

LD2611001793 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 2130 GMT 25 Nov 93

[Text] Pale, 25 Nov (TANJUG)—Momcilo Krajisnik, president of the People's Assembly of the Serb Republic (RS), this evening told TANJUG's correspondent in Pale

that today's talks with Muslim Prime Minister Haris Silajdzic were conducted as part of preparations for the forthcoming Geneva talks.

The two officials discussed the status of Sarajevo. "The Muslim delegation today offered one solution which our side did not find satisfactory. Our side proposed several options which could be examined in a preliminary procedure so that a final solution can be reached," Krajisnik said.

"We also told Mr. Silajdzic that the Serbs have withdrawn all concessions to which they agreed earlier, and that we cannot begin the talks in Geneva from the positions we held before the concessions were withdrawn. We wanted to reach an agreement with the Muslim side about borders, but Mr. Silajdzic pledged that he will brief the Muslim leadership in Sarajevo on this and inform us if any solutions are reached," Krajisnik added.

The president of the RS People's Assembly stressed that it pointed out to the Muslim delegation that "the situation is very difficult, i.e. that there can be no discussion on territorial concessions, because we do not know what concessions we could possibly make."

"In simple words, what we will ask for at the forthcoming Geneva talks is to exchange the quantity of territory for quality. If the Muslims continue to demand 33.3 percent of Bosnia-Herzegovina territory for themselves, I fear that once again no results will be achieved at the Geneva talks, because the Serbs have already made the maximum concessions earlier," said Krajisnik.

The closing down of prisons was also discussed. The Serb side promised to allow Muslim representatives to go to Gorazde and Tarcin and try to come to an agreement with the local authorities about the release of civilians and about the POW exchange based on the "all-for-all" principle. Krajisnik stressed, adding that the Muslim side was warned that it never fulfilled its promise of releasing the Serbs from Tuzla.

"As far as the Neretva valley is concerned, we put forward the demand of the Serbs from that area, who are asking that at least one part of the Neretva valley should be given to them," Krajisnik said.

Trucks Start Unloading Aid in Travnik

AU2411145593 Paris AFP in English 1442 GMT 24 Nov 93

[Text] Sarajevo, Nov 24 (AFP)—Aid workers began unloading urgently needed relief supplies in the central Bosnian town of Travnik on Wednesday [24 November] from the first convoy to reach the region for a month, a UN official said.

"The Zagreb to Zenica convoy we decided to unload in Travnik to get the food as soon as possible to that

population," said Peter Kessler, spokesman here for the office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees [UNHCR].

A second convoy to the central Bosnia region, heading up from the south, had passed through Gornji Vakuf and was about 20 minutes from the town of Vitez, he said.

UNPROFOR Confirms Arrival

AU2511125893 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 1100 GMT 25 Nov 93

[Text] A convoy that set off from Split yesterday morning arrived in Zenica last night, bringing 180 tonnes of wheat, UN Protection Force [UNPROFOR] spokesman Bill Aickmann confirmed in Sarajevo today. The convoy also dropped off some cargo in Vitez.

The other convoy travelling from Banja Luka to Turbe and Travnik delivered 102 tonnes of food to the residents of these towns yesterday. A food convoy also arrived in Srebrenica late last night. A new convoy is expected from the direction of Zagreb today, which will travel via Banja Luka to central Bosnia and from the Adriatic coast to central Bosnia, Aickmann said.

The UN Protection Force yesterday provided armed escort to 15 convoys that delivered 969 tonnes of food. Yesterday's successful delivery of food must continue every day over the next four to five months in order for Bosnia-Herzegovina residents to survive the winter, Peter Kessler, representative of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, said today.

The secessionist forces of Fikret Abdic are creating increasingly more problems for the UN peacekeepers in Bihac, UNPROFOR spokesman Colonel Bill Aickmann said in Sarajevo today. Based on a unilateral decision, Abdic's authorities have banned all movement of UN humanitarian convoys across the territories they control for the next 10 days.

The representatives of Abdic's authorities seized four UN vehicles yesterday and later returned one vehicle and freed two drivers, Aickmann said. Three vehicles and two drivers are still in Velika Kladusa.

UNHCR Test Serb Good Faith; Dispatching 'Unusual' Cargo

AU2511194593 Paris AFP in English 1924 GMT 25 Nov 93

[Text] Belgrade, Nov 25 (AFP)—The UN High Commissioner for Refugees office here plans to test the good faith of Bosnian Serbs Friday by dispatching aid convoys to two Moslem enclaves in eastern Bosnia via unusual routes and carrying unusual cargo, a UNHCR spokeswoman told AFP Thursday.

One convoy will be sent to Srebrenica loaded with shoes, mattresses and blankets, "articles which have so far not been allowed by the Bosnian Serbs," spokeswoman Lyndall Sachs said.

"This will be a sort of test of good faith on the part of the Serbs," she said.

A second convoy will head for Gorazde, using a new route: from Belgrade to Uzice (southwestern Serbia) to Visegrad (in Bosnian Serb-controlled eastern Bosnia) and finally Gorazde.

"The usual route is too dangerous in winter," Sachs said.

The UNHCR was still waiting for Serbian authorization to use this new route, she added.

Three aid convoys which left Belgrade Tuesday managed to reach Tuzla, Srebrenica and Zepa, although the latter only arrived Wednesday, after having been delayed twice by Serbian forces.

Because of this delay, the latter convoy was not able to return to Belgrade in time to be reloaded and sent to Tuzla as planned Friday.

UN Convoys Reach Tuzla Safely via Serb Territory

LD2511220693 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1906 GMT 25 Nov 93

["Pool" item]

[Text] Belgrade, Nov 25 (TANJUG)—A 13-truck humanitarian aid convoy on Thursday reached safely the Moslem-controlled northeastern Bosnian town of Tuzla, TANJUG was told by Lyndall Sachs, spokeswoman for the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

The convoy passed through the territory of the Serb Republic, the state of Bosnian Serbs in the civil war-ravaged ex-Yugoslav Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina. It is via this territory alone that humanitarian aid for entire Bosnia-Herzegovina is transported without problems.

Another aid convoy, Lyndall Sachs said, arrived in Tuzla from Belgrade on Wednesday.

Still another convoy, headed to the eastern Bosnian Moslem enclave of Zepa and held in Rogatica for cargo checks by Bosnian Serb forces, has proceeded to its destination.

The Belgrade UNPROFOR (U.N. Protection Force) headquarters said that near under 970 tonnes of relief shipments were moved by 15 UNHCR convoys into Bosnian territory, and 11 planes with humanitarian cargo landed at Sarajevo airport on Wednesday.

Military Situation Around Tuzla Viewed

*AU2411174893 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina
Network in Serbo-Croatian 1400 GMT 24 Nov 93*

[Report by Salih Brkic from Tuzla]

[Text] The heaviest attacks are still directed at the free territories of Olovo and Teocak. The chetniks are using all sorts of weapons in their bestial attacks, including surface-to-surface missiles and chemical agents. Despite their equipment and personnel losses, the aggressor's leaders are still sending the members of the so-called army of the republic of Srpska to their death.

The signed cease-fires and peace initiatives mean nothing to [Bosnian Serb leader Radovan] Karadzic. We have even been exposed during the last few days to his demented statements on chetnik intentions to capture the city of Tuzla and the surrounding region.

Today's extraordinary public statement issued by Hasim Sabic, commander of the [Bosnia-Herzegovina Army] 2nd Corps in Tuzla, says that the military and political leadership of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina is committed to defending every inch of the free territory with all available means. To that end, explosives have been placed in the Snjeznica dam as a deterrent, and the population of Priboj, Ugljevik, and other villages nearby have been told that there is a serious possibility that the detonators might be activated as they are sensitive to all vibrations caused by explosions, that is to say that the Snjeznica dam could be blown up, starting floods that would cause a catastrophe in this region.

The aim of this warning, Commander Sabic says, is to halt insane attacks by the aggressor, and thus prevent the killing of the civilians and the destruction of property. However, this did not happen. Instead, the people from the endangered regions moved out. The reconnaissance units of the Bosnia-Herzegovina Army have confirmed that Ugljevik and Priboj are ghost towns, while the people who have fled are being forcefully mobilized in Bijeljina and sent into new attacks.

Army, HVO Discuss Humanitarian Aid, POW's Exchanges

*AU2511195393 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina
Network in Serbo-Croatian 1800 GMT 25 Nov 93*

[Text] The Press Center of the Army of Bosnia-Herzegovina reports that Rasim Delic, commander of the Army of Bosnia-Herzegovina, and Major General Milivoje Petkovic, deputy commander of the General Staff of the Croatian Defense Council, today met at the Sarajevo airport. The meeting was chaired by General Briquemont, commander of the UN forces in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Commander Delic and Major General Petkovic discussed the delivery of humanitarian aid to Bosnia-Herzegovina, the exchange of war prisoners in Mostar, the freeing of the helicopters of the Army of the Republic

of Bosnia-Herzegovina from Medjugorje, and the evacuation of wounded from hospitals and towns under the control of the Army of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina and the Croatian Defense Council.

Commander Delic and Major General Petkovic signed an agreement on the free movement of humanitarian convoys in Bosnia-Herzegovina. In addition to this agreement, they also agreed that the representatives of the Army of Bosnia-Herzegovina and the Croatian Defense Council from the Mostar area meet on 29 November and review the details concerning the exchange of the prisoners on the all-for-all principle, as well as the evacuation of the wounded from the hospitals and towns controlled by the Army of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina and the Croatian Defense Council.

Hundreds of Bosnian Croats Flee 'Kiseljak Pocket'

*AU2511171493 Paris AFP in English 1657 GMT 25
Nov 93*

[Text] Sarajevo, Nov 25 (AFP)—Hundreds of Bosnian Croat refugees were being transported from the Kiseljak pocket Thursday through Serb-held territory, in an exodus thought sparked by the fall of the Croat-dominated Vares pocket earlier this month.

A convoy of around 35 trucks was heading south for the town of Stolac, said UN Protection Force spokesman Lt Col Bill Aikman, which was later confirmed by an AFP correspondent who passed the convoy.

Serb soldiers told AFP that the Croats, mainly women and children, were coming from Kiseljak and heading for the Croat-held town of Stolac, on the extreme southern tip of Bosnia-Herzegovina. The town lies on the confrontation line between Croat and Serb forces. The convoy was to take the so-called route Viper through Trnovo and Foca.

Aikman stressed there was no particular incident in the area of Kiseljak recently that could have provoked this movement.

An estimated 15,000 Croats fled Vares, which lies some 40 kilometres (25 miles) north of Sarajevo, when it fell to the Moslem-dominated Bosnian army on November 3.

The Bosnian army launched a massive offensive in the area following the October massacre of 25 Bosnian Moslems in the village of Stupni Do, which lies in the pocket.

Abdic Forces Reportedly Hijack Four UNHCR Vehicles

*LD2511211593 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina
Network in Serbo-Croatian 1900 GMT 25 Nov 93*

[Text] It was announced today that, out of reasons known only to him, Fikret Abdic has prohibited passage

to all convoys over the next 10 days. This, of course, only applies to the territories under his control.

That this bandit means business was confirmed when he hijacked four UNHCR vehicles and kidnapped their drivers. In the meantime, one vehicle has been released, while the others are still being held in Velika Kladusa [Abdic stronghold].

Abdic Proclaims General Mobilization in Velika Kladusa

AU2611131793 Belgrade Radio Beograd Network in Serbo-Croatian 1300 GMT 26 Nov 93

[Text] Fikret Abdic, president of the Autonomous Region of Western Bosnia, has proclaimed a general mobilization in Velika Kladusa today, Velkaton radio reports.

The deadline for the registration of military conscripts is 1 December. On that date, the Army of the Autonomous Region of Western Bosnia will be solemnly and officially proclaimed.

There have been no clashes between the supporters of the Autonomous Region of Western Bosnia and a part of the 5th Muslim Corps today, with the exception of the village of Jokovica where sporadic infantry clashes have been registered.

Muslims Reject Croat Proposal on Evacuation

LD2511222193 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 1800 GMT 25 Nov 93

[Report by Zdenko Vranjes in Mostar]

[Excerpts] Clashes of a somewhat lesser intensity and the departure of new convoys for Bosnia raise the hopes of the famished and exhausted in central Bosnia. [passage omitted]

Yet another attempt to reach agreement with the Muslim authorities on the evacuation of the most seriously wounded from the Franciscan hospital in Nova Bila has failed to produce any results. The Muslim side did not accept the proposal on the evacuation of a certain number of wounded on both sides from the besieged towns of central Bosnia. [passage omitted]

Evacuation From Sarajevo Postponed

AU2611132493 Paris AFP in English 1218 GMT 26 Nov 93

[Text] Sarajevo, Nov 26 (AFP)—The scheduled evacuation Friday of just over 1,000 Bosnians from the besieged Bosnian capital has been postponed because of last-minute difficulties involving the Bosnian Croat militia, a UN spokesman said.

Peter Kessler, spokesman for the office of the High Commissioner for Refugees, did not immediately specify

what the difficulties were, but said they involved the Bosnian Croat HVO militia.

Seventeen buses had been due to evacuate a mixed group of Moslems, Serbs and Croats to the Croatian port of Dubrovnik Friday morning and would-be evacuees had gathered at the bus station in preparation for the operation.

The evacuees—mainly mothers with young children, the elderly, sick and wounded—were to have left by a difficult, mountainous southern route, part of which crosses Croat-held lines.

Earlier this month a group of some 642 Serbs were evacuated from Sarajevo, the first mass evacuation from the city since last January.

Meanwhile, Sarajevo was again without electricity Friday after power lines had again been cut.

UN Protection Force spokesman Lieutenant-Colonel Bill Aikman said the repairs would take "several days".

11 Die of Hunger, Cold; 35 More Killed

AU2411203293 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 1800 GMT 24 Nov 93

[Text] Last week 11 people died of hunger and the cold in Bosnia-Herzegovina. On top of these casualties, 35 more were killed, and 156 wounded over the same period. Eleven were killed and 48 wounded in Sarajevo. This is stated by the Headquarters for Health and Social Safety of the Bosnia-Herzegovina citizens.

The number of wounded and ill people who cannot be medically treated in the medical institutions in Bosnia-Herzegovina—who have been registered on the lists for evacuation—has risen to 1,171. Of that number, 1,230 [figures as heard] people are in Sarajevo.

Sarajevo Receives Usual Supply of Electricity, Water

AU251114193 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 0900 GMT 25 Nov 93

[Excerpt] We have learned at the Information Service of the Bosnia-Herzegovina Electricity Generating Board that Sarajevo is receiving 25 to 30 megawatts of electricity, which is being distributed to the consumers in accordance with the rationing plan.

The supply of water to Sarajevo has normalized again. The quantities of water accumulated in the reservoirs are satisfactory and thus there will be no changes in the delivery of water today. [passage omitted]

Electric Supply Cut

AU2611120193 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 0900 GMT 26 Nov 93

[Text] According to a report by the Information Service of the Bosnia-Herzegovina Electricity Board, Sarajevo

has been left without even a minimum of electrical power as of 2300 last night because the aggressor's side had incapacitated the Vogosca-[name indistinct] power line. Activities are being carried out at the moment with a view to bringing minimum quantities of power come from Vogosca, as well as establishing the location and cause of the breakdown on the power line.

Due to the electricity shortage, the main reservoir at Bacevo is not working, so almost entire city has been left without water. Minimum quantities of water are coming from Jahorina springs but they are not sufficient even for the partial supplies of the Stari Grad Commune. The [word indistinct] (?Brewery) is working and [words indistinct].

Airdrop 'Fails To Meet Even Minimum Needs' in Tescanj

AU2611121093 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 1100 GMT 26 Nov 93

[Text] In the zone covered by the Seven-South Operation Group, the artillery and infantry attack that had begun yesterday has continued today. Hundreds of shells have fallen on the free territory of Tescanj. Several civilians have been killed and injured.

The humanitarian situation in this region is becoming more difficult every day. A hundred thousand citizens and refugees in the region lack food, medicines, and power sources. The airdrop operation is failing to meet even minimum needs. Crates with food dropped from the air are falling on distant places, even over occupied territories, so it is very difficult to get to them. It is reported from Tescanj that there have already been deaths from starvation and cold.

Ljubijankic on Visit to Hungary, Austria, Slovenia

AU2511164693 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 1400 GMT 25 Nov 93

[Statement by Bosnia-Herzegovina Foreign Minister Irfan Ljubijankic on his return from Debrecen, Vienna, and Ljubljana, in Sarajevo on 25 November—recorded]

[Text] I would set aside several impressions: That we have true friends in central Europe, that the international community wants the negotiations to resume along the lines established in Geneva, and that Bosnia-Herzegovina must intensify its diplomatic contacts in order to promote its peacemaking efforts and its position, to explain to people what is going on here.

I would perhaps like to devote the most attention to the Debrecen conference of the Central European Initiative [CEI]. This is a political group that is becoming stronger within Europe. It is (?followed) by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the EBRD, which has already disbursed about half a billion dollars in credit in Debrecen, to its members for traffic infrastructure, particularly for the reconstruction of railroads in

Poland, and for Slovene and Hungarian roads. We have reached some arrangements for Bosnia-Herzegovina in terms of the possibility of investment and the promotion of investment in Bosnia-Herzegovina, and the EBRD would invest capital in Bosnia-Herzegovina, particularly in the traffic infrastructure.

We also got the impression in Debrecen that the CEI fully supports the integrity and sovereignty of Bosnia-Herzegovina, particularly Austria, Slovenia, Hungary, the Czech Republic, and Poland. The Italians have been somewhat less inclined toward us, but on the whole, the commitment of central Europe was reiterated to support Bosnia-Herzegovina as an integral and independent country.

One of the impressions I should mention from some bilateral talks in Slovenia, Hungary, and Austria, is that these countries are very interested in peace [word indistinct] friends. Mr. Mock is an explicit supporter of the very model of life that Bosnia has nurtured for centuries, and it is his wish [changes thought] he would like to believe that something like that was possible again. Everyone asked us if coexistence was still possible in Bosnia-Herzegovina. I of course said that I wanted to believe that it was possible and that it was only a question of time. It is certainly not possible overnight, but our strategic aim is a Bosnia-Herzegovina in which civil rights would be guaranteed to all peoples and citizens.

These, briefly, are my impressions from my contacts.

President Demands Results of UN Probe Into Turajlic Case

AU2511203893 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 1800 GMT 25 Nov 93

[Text] Alija Izetbegovic, president of the Presidency of Bosnia-Herzegovina, sent a letter to Thorvald Stoltenberg, special envoy of the UN Secretary General for the former Yugoslavia, in which he says among other things:

On 8 January of this year, Hakija Turajlic, deputy prime minister and acting prime minister of Bosnia-Herzegovina, was killed by troops of the Serbian aggressor on the road to the Sarajevo airport, controlled by the United Nations, while a UN armored personnel carrier.

(?Prior) to the 1st anniversary of this event I would like to remind you that a UN commission had the exclusive right to carry out the investigation into this case, and we have not received a written report from this commission yet. With regard to this, I would like you to send us the full and final results of the UN investigation.

This was stated in the letter that Alija Izetbegovic, president of the Presidency of Bosnia-Herzegovina, sent to Thorvald Stoltenberg, special envoy of the UN Secretary General for the former Yugoslavia.

Owen: Creation of Muslim Republic in Bosnia Imminent

LD2511225193 Belgrade TANJUG in English 2023
GMT 25 Nov 93

[Text] London, Nov 25 (TANJUG)—The European Union (E.U.) mediator for the former Yugoslavia, Lord Owen, on Thursday said the creation of a predominantly Muslim republic on the territory of the war-torn Bosnia-Herzegovina was imminent because Washington had destroyed his plan for Bosnia-Herzegovina as a multi-ethnic state.

In a lecture delivered in London, Lord Owen did not rule out the possibility that the states of the two other warring peoples in the former Yugoslav republic—the Serb Republic (RS) and Herzeg-Bosna (Croat)—eventually be joined to Serbia and Croatia, respectively.

The co-chairman of the international conference on the former Yugoslavia said that Europe had no reason why to fear the emergence of a Muslim state on its territory, if the three peoples in Bosnia-Herzegovina accepted the

proposed tripartite division of the former Yugoslav republic, torn by a civil war for twenty months.

It practically means that Lord Owen views the union of three national republics, which he has proposed together with the other co-chairman, Thorvald Stoltenberg, as only a provisional solution for Bosnia-Herzegovina.

It remains to be seen whether Lord Owen will present the same stand in Geneva on Monday, at a meeting to be attended by the E.U. foreign ministers, representatives of the three warring sides in Bosnia-Herzegovina, the leaders of the Yugoslav republics of Serbia and Montenegro and of the former Yugoslav republic of Croatia, and Moscow's and Washington's special envoys.

Lord Owen said the Bosnian Serbs and Croats could be subjected to new threats and pressures if they did not show the readiness to make concessions at the Geneva talks. He said that, on the other hand, the international community could withdraw the U.N. peacekeepers if the Muslims remained adamant.

Tudjman Agrees To Attend 29 Nov Geneva Meeting

LD2411144593 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 1200 GMT 24 Nov 93

[Text] We begin our bulletin with the news that Croatian President Dr. Franjo Tudjman has accepted an invitation from foreign ministers of the 12 European Union countries to attend a meeting in Geneva. The invitation was conveyed to him by the cochairmen of the conference on former Yugoslavia, the Croatian president's office has announced. The meeting is to be held on Monday, 29 November in the Palais des Nations.

Granic Supports European Peace Initiative

LD2411140593 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 1200 GMT 24 Nov 93

[Report by correspondent Kreso Zadravec]

[Excerpts] Both chambers of the Croatian Assembly are in session today. [passage omitted]

Following an introductory address by Mate Granic, Croatian deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and by Finance Minister Zoran Jasic to the Chamber of Counties, a discussion began on Croatian foreign policy and on the changes and additions to the state budget for this year.

Minister Granic addressed the Chamber of Counties twice. First, he supplied additions to the government's report on implementation of foreign policy. Then he replied to numerous deputies' questions.

On both occasions, Minister Granic stressed that President Tudjman's peace initiative was welcomed with positive reactions abroad and that, although defined in flexible terms, it clearly stresses that there can be no talk about Croatian territories and Croatian borders.

Dwelling on the latest European Union initiative, Minister Granic said that Croatia supports it because it includes numerous elements from President Tudjman's initiative, particularly with respect to the inviolability of Croatian state territory. However, Croatia will seek additional guarantees in connection with the European initiative, particularly regarding the protection of Croatian borders, control of heavy weapons, disarmament of paramilitary formations, and the return of refugees.

Minister Granic explained what the so-called *modus vivendi* for UN protected areas means. In phase one, a cease-fire and the restoration of traffic in UN protected areas are proposed, while in phase two the definition of the autonomous status of the Serbs in Croatia is proposed. [passage omitted]

National Security Council Upholds EU Peace Plan

LD2511220793 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 1600 GMT 25 Nov 93

[Text] Here is a statement we have just received from the office of the president of the Republic:

The 31st session of the Presidential Defense and National Security Council was held today at the presidential palace under the chairmanship of Croatian President Franjo Tudjman.

The Council was briefed about the proposal on the Geneva conference presented by the European Union's [EU] Council of Ministers. In harmony with Croatia's lasting orientation for a political solution to the conflict, Croatia supports the European Union's plan because its basic objective is to end the war, establish peace, and resume negotiations.

Concerning Bosnia-Herzegovina, the Presidential Council upholds all efforts aimed at reviving the Geneva process and boosting the effectiveness of humanitarian drives.

Reviewing the European Union's proposal, the Council concluded that most of the proposals on the UN Protected Areas in Croatia are identical with President Tudjman's peace initiative, and charged the Croatian Foreign Ministry with informing the Council of Ministers about Croatia's views on all individual issues.

The Council was informed about the cease-fire negotiations, and extended support for measures leading to peace.

The session also reviewed the text of the decision on the principles of military security in southeastern Europe and its supplement which had been prepared, with the participation of Croatian representatives, for the meeting of the CSCE member-countries' foreign ministers in Rome. The meeting expressed agreement with the matters proposed, and voiced the conviction that the initiation of procedures to conclude a regional agreement on security and arms control and to consistently implement these principles would ensure peace and stability in this region, the statement from the office of the President of the Republic says.

Jarcevic: EU Not Even-Handed in Yugoslav Crisis

LD2511230493 Belgrade TANJUG in English 2158 GMT 25 Nov 93

[Text] Belgrade, Nov 25 (TANJUG)—Foreign Minister of the Republic of Serb Krajina (RSK) Slobodan Jarcevic on Thursday said the latest plan of the European Union (E.U.) for the resolution of the crisis in the former Yugoslavia showed that Europe "does not want to resolve the issues of Serbs, Croats and Muslims on an equal footing."

"The E.U. stand that U.N. sanctions against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia will be lifted if peace is established in the former Yugoslav republic of Croatia is paradoxical since Croatia is the one which wages war, violates the ceasefire, captures territories and wants to occupy the RSK," Jarcevic said in a statement to Radio Belgrade.

Asked how he understands the term "modus vivendi," used in the E.U. document in regard to the regulation of relations between the RSK and Croatia, Jarcevic said the RSK would negotiate with Zagreb "only as an equal partner." He set out that "anything but a (separate) state is out of the question" for the RSK.

"We have no other choice, since the Croatian people and also the Croatian state, which has expressed the wishes of the Croatian people, do not want to live together with Serbs," Jarcevic said.

The RSK was proclaimed in 1991 in reply to Croatia's forcible secession from the then Yugoslavia and its attempt to reduce the Serbian people to a national minority.

The RSK has been a U.N. Protected Area (UNPA) since March last year, but that has not prevented Croatia from carrying out aggression on it three times since and always at a time of internationally mediated ceasefire talks.

In the latest Croatian aggression on the RSK in early September, Croatian troops killed over 70 Serbs, mostly civilians, in the Lika region and razed 11 Serb villages, which has been confirmed by the U.N. Protection Force (UNPROFOR). UNPROFOR representatives have established that the operation had to be approved by Croatia's highest leadership.

ICRC Chief Discusses Geneva Talks With Granic

LD251114693 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 1100 GMT 25 Nov 93

[Text] Mate Granic, Croatian deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, held talks today with Cornelio Sommaruga, chairman of the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC], who arrived in Croatia yesterday evening. Following the meeting both sides expressed pleasure with the results of their talks. They primarily talked about the future Geneva negotiations on former Yugoslavia, the stances Croatia will adopt at the negotiations, and the completion of the process of exchanging prisoners, particularly in connection with the Sombor group, in accordance with the Budapest agreement with Serbia.

I believe that we have the right to hope for a speedier process of exchange, minister Granic said after Sommaruga had conveyed him certain messages in this connection from Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic.

The Croatian minister of foreign affairs and the ICRC chairman also talked about the serious humanitarian

situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Minister Granic reiterated that Croatia will do everything it can to alleviate the suffering of the population in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Meets With Tudjman

LD2511145293 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 1400 GMT 25 Nov 93

[Text] Croatian President Franjo Tudjman has received Cornelius Sommaruga, chairman of the International Committee of the Red Cross, in the presidential palace, the president's office reports.

They discussed the war in Bosnia-Herzegovina and the grave humanitarian situation in this area. They also talked about the forthcoming negotiations in Geneva. Speaking about the Croatian Government's contribution to the delivery of humanitarian aid to the civilian population of Bosnia-Herzegovina, Cornelius Sommaruga thanked President Tudjman for his public appeal for compliance with the Geneva Convention and international humanitarian law in the war zones of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Reflecting on the situation in Croatia, President Tudjman pointed out the problem of missing persons that has resulted from the Serbian aggression against Croatia and asked Sommaruga for help in speeding up the process of exchanging the Sombor group of prisoners. The continuation of all humanitarian operations in Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina was also discussed.

Jarcevic: Krajina Meets Conditions for Recognition

AU2411215093 Belgrade Radio Beograd Network in Serbo-Croatian 2100 GMT 24 Nov 93

[Text] Slobodan Jarcevic, foreign minister of the republic of Serbian Krajina, described as blackmail the Croatian demand for the issue of the republic of Serbian Krajina and the former Bosnia-Herzegovina to be settled simultaneously at the forthcoming summit in Geneva.

Saying that the republic of Serbian Krajina has all the attributes of a state, Jarcevic said: We are adhering to what the international community established through the Badinter Commission in 1991, namely that a state exists if it has a territory, population, and legislative authorities. The international recognition of a state is nothing more than a declarative act, Slobodan Jarcevic stressed.

UNHCR Reports Departure of Convoy for Zenica

AU2511125993 Paris AFP in English 1147 GMT 25 Nov 93

[Text] Zagreb, Nov 25 (AFP)—A new convoy of humanitarian aid for the Moslem town of Zenica in central Bosnia left Metkovic, in southern Croatia, on Thursday morning [25 November], a spokesman for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees Alemka Lisinski said.

The convoy of 128 tons of aid took the road to Stolac and will have to cross Serb-controlled territory to reach its destination.

A first convoy for central Bosnia since the convoys were stopped after the killing of a Danish driver a month ago arrived in Zenica on Wednesday [24 November] on the Diamond route, the main relief corridor between the south and centre of the country, which crosses zones disputed by Croats and Moslems.

Thirteen trucks with 80 tons of aid left Belgrade on Thursday morning for Tuzla, in the northeast, where a convoy, which arrived on Wednesday, was due to be unloaded during the day, Lisinski said.

A convoy for the Moslem enclave of Zepa, one of three UN-declared "safe areas" in eastern Bosnia, which left Belgrade on Wednesday, spent the night on Serb territory at Podromanija, 40 kilometres (24 miles) east of Sarajevo and was waiting at Rogatica to cross the battle-line, the spokesman added.

Serbian Intellectuals Refused Access to Krajina

AU2411152693 Paris AFP in English 1505 GMT 24 Nov 93

[Text] Belgrade, Nov 24 (AFP)—The authorities in Croatia's breakaway Serb enclave of Krajina said Wednesday they had refused access to a group of Serbian intellectuals from Belgrade, whose visit they called a "provocation."

The group had held a meeting with Croatian intellectuals in Zagreb, the first of its kind since the beginning of the civil war in the former Yugoslavia in July 1991.

The Serbians had planned to return to Belgrade Tuesday along the main highway which is now only open to members of the UN Protection Force in the former Yugoslavia.

Part of the road passes through the self-proclaimed Serbian Republic of Krajina, and anyone passing that

way, including UNPROFOR members, is obliged to seek authorisation from the Krajina authorities.

A communique from the Krajina "interior ministry" received here said the group had not requested official authorisation and had tried to bluff their way through the border by removing the Croatian number plates from their bus.

Croats Target Serb Villages Near Zadar

LD2511002693 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 2138 GMT 24 Nov 93

[Text] Knin, 24 November (TANJUG)—The main headquarters of the Serb Krajina army said this evening that Croatian forces resumed their attacks on Serb villages and areas of the republic of Serb Krajina.

According to a statement issued by the information service of the main headquarters of the Serb Krajina army, Croatian forces launched artillery attacks on the villages of Smilic and Biljane Gornje throughout the day. During the afternoon they targeted the villages of Karin, Lisane Tinjske, and other villages in the Novigrad hinterland.

All artillery weapons were used in the attacks and extensive damage was inflicted on residential buildings. No details about casualties have been released so far. The statement says that a sharp protest was lodged with the UN Protection Force over the attacks.

RSK Interior Minister To Run for President

LD2511234993 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1751 GMT 25 Nov 93

[Excerpt] Knin, 25 Nov (TANJUG)—Milan Martić, the interior minister of the republic of Serb Krajina [RSK], today signed a statement accepting his nomination for president of the RSK at the upcoming elections on 12 December, Martić's election headquarters has announced.

Martić said on Knin Radio that he will take part in the elections as an independent candidate. [passage omitted]

Federal**Kontic Holds Talks With Russian Envoy on Fuel Supplies***LD2411202193 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1720 GMT 24 Nov 93*

[Text] Belgrade, Nov 24 (TANJUG)—Prime Minister of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (F.R.Y.) Radoje Kontic held talks on Wednesday [24 November] with Russian Federation Ambassador in Belgrade Gennadiy Shikin on the proposed mechanism to control the possible imports and distribution of Russian natural gas for humanitarian purposes in the F.R.Y.

Ambassador Shikin advised Kontic about Russia's activities related to its latest demand to the U.N. Sanctions Committee to endorse a delivery of Russian gas for heating to the F.R.Y.

Last Friday, the U.N. committee again postponed its decision to this effect, seeking information from Belgrade about its reserves and about such a control of distribution as would warrant the gas be used only for humanitarian purposes.

Kontic told Shikin that the F.R.Y. had already communicated to the U.N. all the necessary data on the patterns of domestic production and consumption.

Kontic and Shikin agreed that the competent Yugoslav bodies, in cooperation with Russian gas suppliers and Italian experts from the "Eni" concern, should forward to the U.N. committee a well worked-out proposal on the control of imports and distribution of natural gas in the F.R.Y.

Without a delivery of Russian gas, the F.R.Y. would badly lack oil for heating the coming winter, when the true disaster might befall 10.5 million Yugoslavs, especially children, the elderly and ill, and some 800,000 displaced from the ex-Yugoslav republics.

Since May, 1992, the F.R.Y. has been under comprehensive and mandatory sanctions imposed by the U.N. for its alleged involvement in the civil war in the ex-Yugoslav Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

UN Asked To Approve Flights for Christmas, New Year*LD2411234193 Belgrade TANJUG in English 2049 GMT 24 Nov 93*

["Pool" item]

[Text] Belgrade, November 24 (TANJUG)—The Yugoslav federal government asked the U.N. Sanctions Committee to approve for the Yugoslav Airlines (JAT) a certain number of flights within Europe for humanitarian purposes during Christmas and New Year holidays so the Yugoslav citizens both at home and abroad, refugees and humanitarian aid could be transported.

The request, sent to the U.N. Sanctions Committee Chairmen Ronaldo Mota Sardenberg, said that the Yugoslav Government sought approval for flights to and from Greece, Germany, Great Britain, Sweden, Denmark, Belgium, France, Italy, Austria and Switzerland.

The government set out in its request that these flights would be used solely for humanitarian purposes, such as: The supply of humanitarian aid, the transport of food and medicines, medical equipment and aids, the transport of seriously ill patients, the elderly, children, to other countries, including members of their families, as well as transport of citizens of Yugoslavia visiting their relatives in Europe and vice-versa.

JAT has been banned from flying by the U.N. Security Council sanctions imposed in May last year over alleged involvement of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (F.R.Y.) in war in the former Yugoslav Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Under the burden of the unjust sanctions imposed by the UN Security Council resolution, the children, the elderly, the sick, the wounded, refugees, and all those striving in any way to survive in our country, materially, medically and emotionally devastated by the sanctions, have the right to basic medicines, some food and a warm hug of their closest family, the request set out.

At a time when, due to the sanctions and cold winter, land traffic functioned with difficulty, energy supplies were running short, the transport of seriously ill patients, the wounded, the elderly and children, to other countries was made impossible, as well as the supply of medical equipment, medicines, food and other forms of humanitarian aid, the fundamental human and humanitarian rights were placed in jeopardy, the request said adding that therefore, in addition to numerous previous efforts, "we are trying to undertake measures necessary to mitigate the effects of the sanctions and protect the lives and health of our citizens as much as possible."

Noting that some 600,000 citizens lived and worked around Europe, and whose societies and clubs have asked JAT to organize flights during the Christmas and New Year holidays, the Yugoslav Government letter pointed out that the Yugoslav air company was prepared to meet their requests.

The Yugoslav Government said it would appreciate very much if the U.N. Sanctions Committee would reply positively by December 16 at the latest in view of the fact that the realization of the planned flights required long preparations.

In order to protect the interests of Yugoslav citizens and their lives, JAT was prepared to accept an alternative foreign airlines to realize the mentioned flights.

Ministry Report: Sanctions 'Damaging' to Health Care

AU2511092493 Paris AFP in English 0813 GMT 25 NOV 93

[Text] Belgrade, Nov 25 (AFP)—Sanctions imposed against the rump Yugoslavia in 1990 have proved highly damaging to health care, according to a Health Ministry statement published in the daily BORBA.

The death rate in hospitals has risen by up to 30 percent since the introduction of sanctions, the statement said.

Statistics from the Yugoslav Institute for Preventative Medicine showed that cases of chicken pox had risen from 694 in the first half of last year to 14,940 in the same period this year, of which 44 were fatal.

Belgrade's Tirsova Children's Hospital, which operated on 500 children with heart defects last year, could this year manage only 150 operations. Clinic Director Dusan Scep-anovic said: "Children will die waiting for their turn."

Infant mortality has risen from 1.4 percent in 1991 to 1.7 percent during the first six months of this year, the statement said.

By April, Serbia was spending annually only 20 dollars per resident on health care compared to 150 dollars in 1983.

Serbia

Commission Spokesman Discusses Elections, Deadlines

AU2611165593 Belgrade Radio Beograd Network in Serbo-Croatian 1400 GMT 26 Nov 93

[Interview with Zoran Djumic, spokesman of the republican Electoral Commission, by Zoran Vaskovic; place and date not given—recoded]

[Excerpt] [Vaskovic] Mr. Djumic, which parties so far have earned the right to have their representatives in the expanded Republican Electoral Commission?

[Djumic] As you know, the regular members of the Republican Electoral Commission consist of a president and six members appointed by the People's Assembly. The expanded commission also includes a representative from all parties that have put forward their candidates for deputies in at least two-thirds of the constituencies.

So far, this right has been earned by the following parties: the Socialist Party of Serbia, DEPOS [Democratic Movement of Serbia], the Democratic Party of Serbia, the Serbian Radical Party, the Party of Serbian Unity, and the Democratic Party. They have already selected their representatives, who participated in the work of the commission yesterday.

There are actually two more parties that have earned this right: the People's Party and the United Left.

[Vaskovic] What is the deadline for the parties or group of citizens to submit the lists of their candidates?

[Djumic] The final date by which the parties should submit their lists to the electoral commissions is 3 December. The lists should be directly submitted within 24 hours. If a party or a group of citizens sends these lists through the mail and they arrive a day late, they will be considered invalid. Likewise, if a party or group of citizens sends their lists through the mail and they arrive before 2400 on 3 December, they will be considered valid. [passage omitted]

Party Official Views Plans To Ease Sanctions

AU2411171693 Budapest NEPSZABADSAG in Hungarian 24 Nov 93 p 2

["Sz.J."-signed interview with Vladimir Gajic, general secretary of the Serbian Renewal Movement; place and date not given: "The Abolition of Sanctions Is Questionable"]

[Text] In connection with the Western-European proposals to abolish the international embargo against the rump Yugoslavia, Vladimir Gajic, general secretary of one of the largest Serbian opposition parties, the Serbian Renewal Movement, told NEPSZABADSAG the following:

[Gajic] I do not believe that the German-French initiative will be a successful one. The United States is opposing this plan, and Washington's position will basically influence the temporary abolition of the sanctions. In an indirect way, the initiative of the European Union is directed against the interests of the Serbian democratic opposition. If the sanctions were abolished before the elections scheduled for December, this would support President Milosevic and his policy.

[NEPSZABADSAG] The abolition of the embargo would mean a diplomatic victory for Serbia.

[Gajic] Yes, but it would also mean that Western Europe, which contributed to the outbreak of this war with some of its measures, recognizes the Serbian conquests in Croatia and Bosnia.

[NEPSZABADSAG] What induced the European Union to back down?

[Gajic] It is not certain that this is a backing down. By declaring their readiness to ease the sanctions, they are strengthening President Milosevic's position. However, the president's policy could drift all the Serbs into a catastrophe. If he stays in power, he can continue his catastrophe policy.

[NEPSZABADSAG] Are the Serbs in Bosnia ready for territorial compromise in exchange for peace?

[Gajic] Probably yes. The political leadership of the Serbs in Bosnia is following a guideline that opposes the interests of Serbs. Staying in power is more important for them than territorial compromises. They will do anything to stay in power.

Serbian Unity Party Leader Speaks at Subotica Rally
*AU2411204293 Belgrade RTB Television Network in
 Serbo-Croatian 1830 GMT 24 Nov 93*

[Unattributed report]

[Text] The Serbian Unity Party rallied in Subotica last night. Neither the cold weather, nor the fact that there was no public transportation, nor a small war of posters in the streets, nor the price of the hall—something of a blackmail—nothing prevented the residents of Subotica from coming to hear the speech by the party's president, Zeljko Raznjatovic Arkan. [as heard]

We are said to be against the Hungarians. However, we are inviting them to live with us in peace, to build the future for our children together, Zeljko Raznjatovic said, adding: Everyone in Serbia will be a first class citizen because there will be no second class citizens in Serbia.

[Begin Raznjatovic recording] All those loyal citizens of Serbia who are looking toward Belgrade and not toward Budapest, Tirana, Iran, and Zagreb are welcome to bring up their children together with us, and their children are welcome to play with ours. However, the enemies of the Serbian state and the Serbian people, those who are looking for ways to cause a rift among us, to separate parts of sacred Serbian land, we will not let them do that. They can pack up their belongings. [applause] [end recording]

The Subotica sports hall, the capacity of which is 4,000 people, was full. The audience was sitting on the floor. A group of people was still pushing around the open gate. The party continued its campaign tour in Ruma and Sremska Mitrovica. It will visit Vrbas and Sombor tomorrow. This was stated by the press office of the Party of Serbian Unity.

Opposition Leader Says Sanctions Cannot 'Divide Us'
*AU2511163693 Belgrade Radio Beograd Network in
 Serbo-Croatian 1400 GMT 25 Nov 93*

[Text] Zoran Djindjic, leading candidate of the Democratic Party [DS], presented his program in the communes of Loznica and Mali Zvornik. Djindjic said the following at the rally in Loznica:

[Begin Djindjic recording] When the Yugoslav state fell apart, every nation that had lived in it tried to create its own state—in accordance with its strength—on the territory where it was in the majority. The Serbian people did the same, and in that respect they were equal to the other nations. The Serbian people must have the right to self-determination. This right that has been granted to others has to be granted to the Serbs, too. They must be their own people on their own land; they have to have power in their dwelling places, in places where they are in the majority.

That happened, and I can say, a 100-year-old national program is being fulfilled in the sense that, in places

where the Serbian people are in the majority, now the political will is conducted in accordance with the principle of self-determination.

What is important now for all the political parties is that the national question, the national interest, not become a subject of political dispute, that it not become an auctioning issue among the parties, that the parties do not seek advantage with this, but that they try to contribute as much as possible to speed up the process of state strengthening, of international recognition, and economic strengthening of these Serbian states.

It is important that all the parties participating in the elections in Serbia tell the world clearly that, regardless of all other differences, there is no difference in the view that the sanctions are bad and harmful to all of us. We should destroy our enemies' illusions that they can divide us with the sanctions, and that they will create a rift among us. If we tell them that the sanctions are bad for all of us, and that we—the authorities and the opposition—want them lifted, that will strengthen our national and state positions, and we will also, as parties, be stronger and more worthy of respect in our own environment, in Serbia. [end recording]

Panic Urges Serbian Opposition to Unite
*LD2611000493 Belgrade TANJUG in English 2042
 GMT 25 Nov 93*

[Text] Belgrade, Nov 25 (TANJUG)—Former Yugoslav Prime Minister Milan Panic on Thursday [25 November] urged all opposition parties in Serbia to unite, pending the early parliamentary elections to be held on December 19.

Panic, the strongest rival of Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic in Serbia's presidential elections last year, told a news conference in Belgrade that he would agree to be candidate of a united opposition. But, he added, prospects for such a unification were not big.

The upcoming elections will be a failure and waste of time if they do not effect the lifting of international sanctions and isolation of Yugoslavia, and secure a better standard of living in the country, Panic set out adding that Serbia's present regime is unable to achieve this.

Panic, a U.S. businessman born in Belgrade, also criticized the West for not being ready to help democratic processes in Yugoslavia and other countries, following the collapse of communism.

"The West was ready to destroy communism in 'Star Wars' in 15 minutes, but when people themselves rocked the system the West was not ready to help them introduce changes peacefully," said Panic.

He again called for the creation of a Balkan economic union, which was one of the main ideas during his prime ministership in the second half of 1992.

SRS Criticizes Serbia, Montenegro Decision To Attend Talks

LD2511230093 Belgrade TANJUG in English 2050 GMT 25 Nov 93

[Text] Belgrade, November 25 (TANJUG)—President of the opposition Serbian Radical Party (SRS) Vojislav Seselj on Thursday [25 November] criticized the decision by presidents of the Yugoslav Republics of Serbia and Montenegro Slobodan Milosevic and Momir Bulatovic to attend talks on the conflict in Bosnia-Herzegovina and the crisis in former Yugoslavia in Geneva on Monday.

"Milosevic should have remained firm in the stand not to participate in international conferences as long as the sanctions against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia are in force," Seselj told a press conference in Belgrade.

The United Nations sanctions against Yugoslavia were imposed in May last year because of Yugoslavia's alleged involvement in the civil war among Moslems, Serbs and Croats in the former Yugoslav Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Seselj described the move as irresponsible and playing into the hands of "Western countries which hope for the dismembering of the Serbian lands."

The SRS leader said Milosevic and Bulatovic had been invited to Geneva to blackmail the leadership of the Serb Republic, the state proclaimed by the Bosnian Serbs.

He called Bosnian Serb President Radovan Karadzic not to yield to pressures from Belgrade and Podgorica.

A new round of peace talks on Bosnia-Herzegovina was called within the framework of the International Conference on Former Yugoslavia at an initiative by the European Union foreign ministers.

The ministers of 12 European nations suggested that the sanctions against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia be suspended on condition that the Bosnian Serbs make new territorial concessions to the local Moslems.

Speaking at a press conference on Thursday, president of the Serbian Liberal Party (SLS) Nikola Milosevic expressed surprise at the fact that the forthcoming talks would not be attended by Yugoslav President Zoran Lilic.

Democrats Urge 'Non-Party' Settlement of Kosovo

AU2411203693 Belgrade RTB Television Network in Serbo-Croatian 1830 GMT 24 Nov 93

[Zeljko Avramovic report]

[Text] The worst the situation the more we need a better government. We live in the most difficult of times and we need the best government that we can form. This represents the basis of the pre-election activities of the Democratic Party. This was stated by Zoran Djindjic, top candidate of the Democratic Party at the forthcoming elections, at a news conference today.

Summing up his visit to Kosovo, Djindjic said that his impression was that the state stopped solving the Kosovo problem half-way. This is why the Democratic Party initiated work on a platform for a definitive settlement of the Kosovo problem. The platform would be drawn up by the most prominent non-party people from Kosovo-Metohija, because Kosmet [Kosovo-Metohija] is not a party but a state issue, the Democratic Party believes.

The Serbs who expressed loyalty to Serbia by staying in Kosmet must be rewarded by the state in some way, Zoran Djindjic said.

Commander Praises Army in Keeping Peace in Sandzak

AU2511210393 Belgrade RTB Television Network in Serbo-Croatian 1830 GMT 25 Nov 93

[Branko Stankovic report on meeting on security in the region held in Sjenica on 25 November—recorded]

[Text] [Stankovic] Peace in the Raska region [Sandzak] has been preserved despite attempts to spread the war from Bosnia into this area and Party of Democratic Action [SDA] attempts to create unrest here with its aggressive and militant policy. This was said at today's meeting in Sjenica, attended by General Bozidar Babic, commander of the 2nd Army, General Rade Martinovic, chief of staff of the 2nd Army, and General Dusan Loncar, commander of the Uzice Corps, as well as the chiefs of the Zlatibor and Raska districts, and the mayors of the communes in these two regions.

The citizens themselves made the largest contribution to the preservation of peace in the Raska region, it was said at this meeting, but the contribution of the Yugoslav Army and the Ministry of Internal Affairs also could not be ignored, as they prevented any serious incident from happening and intercepted the smuggling of arms in the areas of Sjenica, Prijepolje, and Novi Pazar.

Addressing the role and the reasons for the presence of the Yugoslav Army in the Raska region, General Bozidar Babic, commander of the 2nd Army, said that the Army came to this region primarily to secure peace and a quiet life for all the citizens. Besides, the units of the Yugoslav Army are deployed in the Raska region on the following missions:

[Babic] To secure the state border with the former Bosnia-Herzegovina and Albania, including the control of the territory; to carry out training with the entire staff as one of the main tasks of all the commands and units; to preserve the (?health) and basic material living conditions of the people, meaning the active duty army personnel, soldiers, and civilians in the Yugoslav Army, and to preserve and secure combat equipment and army installations.

[Stankovic] At today's meeting in Sjenica an appeal was issued to all the citizens in the Raska region to keep peace. They were also called on to vote in the elections and thus show how much they trust the country in which they live.

Macedonia**MIC Outlines Government Macroeconomic Program***AU2411175093 Skopje MIC in English 23 Nov 93*

[Unattributed report: "The Government's New Macroeconomic Programme"]

[Text] The Government of the Republic of Macedonia has prepared a new macro-economic programme for the coming year. According to our information, the assessments of the experts from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) are favorable, particularly in view of the fact that the program was prepared in accordance with the STF [expansion unknown] arrangement with IMF, according to which Macedonia is to receive \$200 million from various programs.

The programme envisages a range of restrictive measures to come into effect starting from January. Measures such as the reduction of the common and public expenditure, control of the wages and pensions, introduction of more restrictive monetary measures, for which a number of laws are expected to be adopted (part of them are already in parliament procedure), and a part have been made with the technical assistance of experts from the IMF and the World Bank.

In the part concerning expenditure, a new Law for the budget is expected to be introduced, instead of the previous Law for the system of the financing of the public and common expenditure. The budget is expected to be adopted at the beginning of next month and will be in concordance with the macro-economic programme.

Next year, according to the words of the Minister of Finance Dzevzet Hajredini, a more moderate rate of inflation of some 70 percent on an annual level or 5 percent per month is foreseen. The inflation should be higher in the first months of the year and is expected to begin decreasing near the middle, and to drop to some 2 to 3 percent per month by the end of 1994. On the basis of the projected inflation, a balance of the expenditure and revenue of the budget has also been projected.

In the part regarding expenditure, the measures will mainly deal with the control of the wages and pensions, the expenditure of the army and police and the expenses of the state administration. The wages, according to Hajredini, will not be frozen, but will follow the monthly inflation rate, and the state will take care of them until a full privatization of the capital is carried out.

According to Hajredini, it will also come to greater changes in the system of pension insurance which will abolish the benefits of the previous system. A new age limit for pensioning is envisaged, as well as new ways of the determination of the pension base.

As far as incomes are concerned, they are expected to increase following the introduction of new taxation and improvements in the efficiency of collection of taxes.

The law for sales tax will be changed, and the taxation rates will be coordinated with those in the developed countries and the neighboring countries.

It is believed that the basic rate of 42 percent is much too high, so the current 21 tax rates are planned to be reduced to 3 different tax rates for the sales taxes - a general rate of up to 25 percent, then 5 percent for food, equipment, childrens clothing, liquid gas and bank services and a rate of 10 percent for other services.

Minister Hajredini also announced an expected increase in the tax on alcohol, coffee, cigarettes, luxury automobiles and oil derivatives. In an effort to increase the efficiency of collection of taxes, a new Law for the Republic's Department of public revenue is expected. With this law, the controlling function which carried out until now by the Government Auditing Office, goes under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Finance, that is, the Revenue Department.

This stabilization programme foresees the expenditure of the state treasury and the funds to be reduced by 5.4 percent of the GDP, and the incomes to go up 4 percent. The drop of the GDP is planned to be 8 percent, and the drop in the wages 12 percent. The pensions will not follow the movement of the wages in the economy, but in the non-economy.

Montenegro**Bulatovic Announces Attendance at Geneva Talks***LD2511120893 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1155 GMT 25 Nov 93*

[Text] Podgorica, 25 Nov (TANJUG)—Momir Bulatovic, president of the Republic of Montenegro, will participate in a meeting devoted to ending the Bosnia-Herzegovina conflict and examining the crisis on the territory in former Yugoslavia which is to be held in Geneva on 29 November.

This was announced today by President Bulatovic's office in Podgorica.

Kosovo**Serbs Reject Outside Interference in Kosovo***LD2511224893 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1929 GMT 25 Nov 93*

["Pool" item]

[Text] Pristina, Nov 25 (TANJUG)—Representatives of the Serb parties in Kosovo and Metohija (Kosmet) on Thursday [25 November] strongly rejected the international community's stand that the abolition of U.N. sanctions against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (F.R.Y.) should be linked to the question of the Serbian provinces of Kosmet and Vojvodina and the Serbian Sandzak region.

The two provinces and the Sandzak region are an internal affair of Serbia, said Vojislav Zivkovic, president of the Kosmet provincial board of the ruling Socialist Party of Serbia (SPS).

If the West goes on insisting on the so-called problem of ethnic Albanians, it takes an obvious risk of encouraging separatist claims and opening a fresh hotbed of war in Kosmet, because Serbia will not allow its territory to be split, said Zivkovic in his statement to the Pristina Serb-language paper JEDINSTVO.

In Kosmet, where ethnic Albanians are majority, a strong separatist movement has long been active aiming to merge the province with Albania on the pretext that their rights are allegedly threatened.

Momcilo Trajkovic, leader of the Socialist-Democratic Party (SDP) not represented in parliament, also was against turning the Kosmet problem into an international issue, because no one in Serbia was entitled to let outside factors solve a Serbian affair.

"Kosmet is not comparable with the Republic of Serb Krajina (RSK) and the Bosnian Serb Republic (S.R.)," said Trajkovic and added that it was impermissible to trade in territories—the West's condition for the settlement of the crisis in ex-Yugoslavia.

The RSK and the S.R. were formed in the predominantly Serb-populated parts of the ex-Yugoslav Republics of Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina (BiH). In the former Yugoslav Federation, the Serbs were a constituent nation unlike the ethnic Albanians in Kosmet who have always had the status of a national minority.

Linking the sanctions to the Kosmet problem was unrealistic, because the question of the Albanian minority accounted for an internal affair of Serbia and the F.R.Y., stressed Branislav Milutinovic, president of the local board of the parliamentary opposition Democratic Party (DS).

President of the provincial board of the parliamentary Serbian Radical Party (SRS) Ranko Babic said that this was the West's perfidious game aimed to fragment the Serbian space as much as possible.

The parliamentary opposition Democratic Party of Serbia (SDS) also held that the endeavours to grant "a broader-based autonomy" to Kosmet represented a meddling in Serbia's own affairs. The international community's so-called global approach towards resolving the crisis in ex-Yugoslavia was "a blackmail trap," said Milos Djordjevic, secretary of the SDS board for Kosmet.

Rugova Holds Consultations With German Politicians

AU2511214993 Pristina KOSOVO DAILY REPORT Nr. 237 in English 25 Nov 93

[Unattributed report: "President Rugova in the German Bundestag"—issued by the Democratic League of Kosovo]

[Text] Dr. Ibrahim Rugova, president of the Republic of Kosovo, accompanied by Dr. Bujar Bukoshi, prime minister of the Republic of Kosovo, Anton Kolaj, LDK

[Democratic League of Kosovo] vice chairman, and Hafiz Gagic, chairman of the LDK branches in diaspora, presented on Tuesday [23 November] before the German Bundestag the situation in Kosovo.

Speaking to the German Bundestag parliamentary groups, Dr. Rugova expressed satisfaction for the fact that there is consensus among the German Bundestag parliamentary groups in favor of the legitimate rights of Kosovo.

Describing the situation in Kosovo, President Rugova said that the Albanians have been dismissed from all aspects of life and [words indistinct] they have managed to avoid a conflict. "It is not easy to bear the repression, but we do not approve war as a means for the solution of the problems. We will continue with our policy," said Dr. Rugova, adding that "it will still depend on the Serbs who may launch new provocations."

The Kosovo President briefed the parliamentary groups in the German Bundestag with the political project of the Albanians, i.e. the referendum for independence and neutrality of Kosovo, as a most realistic and optimal solution of the problem. "This is a legitimate demand having in mind that Kosovo was a unit of a federation which is being disintegrated," Dr. Rugova added.

As to the problem of the Albanians in the FYROM [Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia], President Rugova said that the best solution would be if they were granted the status of a state-founding subject.

Speaking about the role of the international community in the region, Dr. Rugova repeated his call for an international protectorate in Kosovo in order to ensure conditions for negotiations on the status of Kosovo.

Ending his speech before the German [words indistinct] support Kosovo in the international fora. "Germany is one of the best connoisseurs of the situation in Kosovo," said Dr. Rugova, adding that "the sanctions imposed on Serbia should be conditions with the solution of the Kosovo issue."

Commenting on the German-French initiative on former Yugoslavia, President Rugova said: "We understand this initiative as an expression of good will, but I fear that the Serbs would go on with the aggression, regarding this as a recognition of their victory. Therefore, without discussing all the problems in former Yugoslavia, one can hardly expect any solution whatsoever."

President Rugova of Kosovo answered many questions put forward by German Bundestag members concerning the perspective of the talks with the Serbs, the status of Kosovo, American implications in the region, etc.

Peter Reuschenbach, presiding the meeting, stressed that the realization of the rights of the Albanians in Kosovo should start in the sphere of human rights and later with realization of the independence of Kosovo as a lasting solution. He concluded that within the next week the parliamentary groups in the German Bundestag will write to the German [words indistinct] Foreign Minister Kinkel himself urging conditioning of lifting of sanctions against Serbia with the solution of the Kosovo issue.